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NEWSWATCH

Kuwait-Jordan accord
KUWAIT, June 28, (KUNA): Kuwait and Jordan today signed an overland transportation agreement.

Kuwait's director of the transportation department, Mubarak Al-Khaled said the agreement will facilitate overland transport of passengers and goods between the two countries.

Black vote
PRETORIA, June 28, (AP): The ruling National Party's campaign platform for parliamentary elections this year envisions a direct vote in national affairs by the black majority within five years, party leaders say.

Free to move
TUNIS, June 28, (Reuters): Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Bouche, clarifying a longstanding ambiguity, said today that former President Habib Bourguiba was free to move about.

Traffic chaos
LONDON, June 28, (Reuters): A 24-hour national train strike created traffic chaos in Britain today and the rail union said it would repeat the walkout every week until it wins its pay claim.

Ship hijacked
MANILA, June 28, (AP): Pirates hijacked a 2,940-ton cargo ship in central Philippine waters and set at least 26 crew members adrift in a life raft, the Coast Guard reported today.

US diplomat killed
WASHINGTON, June 28, (Reuters): A US diplomat was shot dead in Grenada today by the island nation's second highest-ranking police officer, who also killed the police commissioner and then killed himself, a State Department official said.

Suspect shot dead
OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, June 28, (Reuters): Israeli troops in the occupied Gaza Strip today shot dead, Mohamed Ahmed Abu Nasser, the prime suspect in last week's kidnapping of American social worker Chris George, an Army spokesman said.

Tehran costliest
GENEVA, June 28, (Reuters): Tehran has jumped over Tokyo and Osaka to become the world's most expensive city, a private consultant agency said today.

Plane shot down
LONDON, June 28, (Reuters): Somali rebels said today they shot down a Somali airliner between the town of Borama and the northern capital of Hargeisa. Mogadishu Radio said all 30 people were killed.



Bernstein
Internationally famous conductor, Leonard Bernstein waves to photographers on his arrival at Hamburg airport from Rome yesterday. Bernstein will conduct concerts at the Schleswig-Holstein classical music festival (Reuters wirephoto)

Economic situation is stable: Salem

By M.C. Bose
Business editor

Difficult Credits Settlement Programme and mainly its completion have helped in directly or indirectly improving the performance of the banks.

removal of uncertainties that dominated the debtors' thinking and attitudes, and affected a return to their normal role in the economy.

obvious fact is that the Central Bank's offering of public debt instruments on behalf of the Ministry of Finance, led to the expansion and activation of the Kuwaiti dinar market.

created a substantial restructuring on the uses of the banks' funds through improving asset quality and return rates.

regulation of the Kuwaiti dinar liquidity levels.

resident private sector deposits contributed KD188 million of this increase, i.e.: 41 per cent.



Rabble-rouser
Student leader Wueraiki, wanted by the Chinese government for his role in leading the pro-democracy movement is shown in this file picture addressing protesters in Tiananmen Square on May 4. (Reuters wirephoto) See details on Page 5

Iraqi missiles 'sent' to Aoun

New appeal for peace

WASHINGTON, June 28, (Agencies): The United States, responding to a report that Iraq may be sending missiles to a Lebanese Christian militia leader, today called on all parties in Lebanon to observe the ceasefire there.

The Washington Times, quoting US and Israeli sources that included intelligence officials, reported yesterday that Iraq had shipped some Soviet-made ground-to-ground missiles to the Jordanian port of Aqaba.

The paper said the missiles, called Luna by the Soviet Union and Frog by NATO, might be on their way to Major General Michel Aoun, a Lebanese Christian who is fighting against Syria and its Muslim Lebanese allies.

The fighting came as politicians and commentators, especially on the Christian side, expressed scepticism about the committee's call for Lebanon's Parliament to meet outside the country to forge a solution to the 14-year civil war.

Aoun heads a military cabinet vying for power with a Syrian-backed administration led by Sunni Muslim Selim Hoss. Syria says Aoun must be overthrown before there can be peace.

"We express our deep regret for the continuation of violence... despite the appeal issued by all the Arabs," the statement said in reference to the ceasefire call on May 26.

China recalls envoys

BEIJING, June 28, (Agencies): China reportedly has recalled all of its ambassadors as the communist government moved today to cope with international denunciations of its military crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators.

A cultural attaché at the Chinese embassy in Nairobi, Kenya, said today that all envoys would return to Beijing for a general meeting.

But the official, who was not identified, denied the recall was connected to international fallout from the harsh crackdown on dissent.

Migrant flow to be curbed

Population balance top priority

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

KUWAIT'S long-term planning strategy proposes curbs on the free flow of migrants and envisages a bigger role for nationals in the workforce.

But a top planner believes it would be "unrealistic" to expect a population balance by the year 2000.

Secretary-General of the Higher Planning Council Fuad Mulla Hussein told the Arab Times that due to the changing socio-economic fabric of Kuwait, it was imperative to reduce the gap between nationals and expatriates in the demographic structure.

Kuwait's present population is estimated at 1.9 million with 28 per cent Kuwaitis. Nationals constitute a mere 14 per cent of the workforce.

Planners want to reduce the gap. It is largely believed that a balanced demographic structure would emerge by the year 2000.

But Hussein said: "The concept to balance the population by the year 2000 is unrealistic; the year 2000, is still far away in our mind. It is not, its only 11 years away. If we can switch the trend within 10 years, it would be a great achievement; it would be great if we can reach that balance within 50 years."

In a wide-ranging interview on the concepts of long-term planning strategy, recently approved by the Higher Planning Council, he explained obstacles to planning and discussed its objectives. He also stressed the need to "change attitudes" to achieve planning targets. The cabinet is reviewing the strategy.

The selective immigration policy envisages bringing in migration under one body, curbing numbers and nationalities and is geared toward balancing population.

"Selectivity means deciding the numbers, who can enter Kuwait, maybe certain nationalities, certain qualifications... and in all aspects restrict (the number of migrants)," said Hussein.

He said: "Probably, there may be a directive from the Council of Ministers (to fix numbers), varying each year according to the economic and social conditions."

In the last 40 years, any company or Kuwaiti individual could hire anyone from anywhere around the world, and sponsor him/her. Under the new scheme, this won't be possible.

"The concept has changed. Kuwait can't afford that (open-door policy) any more. (Selection) will not be left to an individual or company; the relevant authority will tell them to go and look in the market," he said.

He said getting a business permit will not entitle an employer to "bring people."

Detractors believe that such a policy would be detrimental to business.

"They want to protect their own interest; we have a much higher interest — to protect the (Continued on Page 7, Col 1)



Celebrating
Princess Caroline of Monaco attending a mass, in front of the princely palace, to celebrate the 40th reigning year of Prince Rainier.

America promotes terrorism, says Iran

NICOSIA, June 28, (Reuters): Iran, branded in the past as a terrorist state by the West, today accused the United States and some European countries of promoting terrorism.

The charge was made by Iranian leader Ali Khamenei, speaking on the ninth anniversary of a bomb blast in Tehran that killed more than 70 officials, including four ministers and 27 members of Parliament.

Tehran blamed the opposition Mujahadeen-e-Khaq group, now based in Iraq.

A day earlier — on June 27, 1980 — Khamenei himself had been injured by a bomb hidden in a tape recorder when he was making a speech in a Tehran mosque.

"The backing given by the United States and certain European governments to groups whose hands are stained with blood is a clear indication that these countries promote terrorism and train terrorists for their ominous aims," Tehran Radio, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Khamenei as saying.

He said the big powers' support for human rights was only "deception, lies and subterfuge."

The West has accused the Iranian government of supporting international terrorism, including hostage-taking and air piracy, since the Islamic revolution 10 years ago.

Khamenei condemned as shameful a non-binding resolution adopted by the European Parliament last month which called on its members to try to expel Tehran from the United Nations and give its seat to the Mujahadeen.

Lanka, Tigers to sheathe claws

COLOMBO, June 28, (Reuters): Tamil rebels and the Sri Lankan government will stop fighting each other and resolve their bloody six-year-old ethnic conflict through negotiations, the government said today.

The rebels — the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) — said last week they will also stop fighting Indian troops on the island if a timetable is drawn up for an Indian military withdrawal. There has been no response from the Indians.

Sri Lankan Industries Minister Ranil Wickremasinghe told a news conference today the Tigers said at peace talks yesterday, they would transform a current ceasefire with the government into a permanent "cessation of hostilities."

All outstanding differences between the two sides would be resolved through talks, Wickremasinghe said.

When the talks began six weeks ago the Tigers halted attacks on Sri Lankan forces but continued to fight Indian troops sent to the island two years ago to try to enforce an Indo-Sri Lankan accord aimed at ending the Tamil revolt.

The Tigers say there will never be complete peace until the Indians withdraw.

About 700 Sri Lankan security force members and 900 Indian soldiers have died in clashes with the Tigers, according to official Sri Lankan and Indian sources.

The Tigers say about 550 rebels and 2,000 Indian soldiers have been killed in the past two years.

President Ranasinghe Premadasa has told India to withdraw its 45,000 troops by the end of July and confine any remaining soldiers to barracks.

Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has said the troops can be pulled out only after mutual consultation on the pact, designed to give semi-autonomous powers to the Tamil-dominated north and east.

The accord represents the first such agreement between the government and the LTTE, the most powerful rebel group, since the guerrillas from the minority Hindu Tamil community began their bloody campaign in 1983 for independence for the Tamil-dominated north and east of the country.

The LTTE rejected the July, 1987 accord signed between New Delhi and Colombo aimed at bringing peace to the picturesque Indian Ocean island of 16 million people.

The Indian troops, apparently ignoring the LTTE ceasefire offer, are currently engaged in a week-old offensive against the rebels that has left 35 guerrillas dead.

Immunity question delays Marcos ruling

LAUSANNE, June 28, (Reuters): A Swiss court hearing on whether to help the United States take legal action against Ferdinand Marcos was suspended today because the deposed Philippine leader could have immunity under international law.

Marcos is appealing against a Swiss Justice Ministry decision to give US authorities records of financial transactions made by him and his family.

The Swiss federal court adjourned to give US authorities time to produce or obtain from Manila proof that Marcos's immunity had been repealed.

former heads of state and their immediate families were immune from prosecution by other countries for crimes committed in office.

The US, which has a legal assistance agreement with Switzerland, wants the Swiss documents to help prove charges that the Marcoses stole \$103 million from the Philippines and defrauded US banks of \$165 million.

Philippine authorities are also trying to get information about Marcos's financial dealings from Switzerland.

A spokesman for the Chinese embassy in the Soviet Union which last month formally ended 30 years of chilled ties with Beijing, said Chinese Ambassador Yu Hongliang "is remaining in Moscow. He has no plans for returning to Beijing in the near future."

In Vienna, the press attaché at the Chinese embassy said Ambassador Yang Chengxun also had no plans to travel to Beijing in the near future.

Father in search of his long-lost son

First Saudi immigrant to the United States

RIYADH, June 28, (AP): Khalil Al Rawaf, "the first Saudi Arabia 54 years ago to find fame and fortune in America, has a new quest now — finding his long-lost only son."

Rawaf, now aged 90 and back in his homeland, was the first Saudi to be granted an immigration visa to the United States, where he became the toast of New York society and even made a movie with John Wayne.

The last time he saw his American son was 1948. They were separated when Rawaf and his second wife, an American, were divorced. His son was just an infant then.

"I returned to America and tried to find him four times," Rawaf said in an interview.

He never did. But he found out that his son's name, originally Nawaf Al Rawaf, had been changed to Chive Abushady when his ex-wife remarried.

Abushady, now 42, served with US forces in Vietnam, but after that his father lost track of him.

Rawaf now lives in Riyadh with his third wife and two daughters.

An animated, bespectacled man with sunken cheeks and a neatly trimmed grey beard, Rawaf recalls his years in the US that took him through 42 states.

He first went to the United States in 1935, after marrying an American woman he met in Baghdad. But the marriage was short-lived and the two divorced within months halfway through a trip across America.

Rawaf, an adventurer by nature, continued the trek on his own until he arrived in Los Angeles.

His search for fellow Arabs brought him to a Lebanese merchant who told him that a Hollywood movie studio was looking for someone who knew about traditional... ab dress.

NEWS IN BRIEF

MOSCOW: A Soviet submarine with nuclear weapons on board was towed back to its home base in the Kola peninsula on Wednesday, two days after an accident off the Norwegian coast forced the shutdown of its reactor, Tass said.

"The radiation situation on the submarine is normal," Admiral Konstantin Makarov, chief of staff of the Soviet Navy, told the official news agency. He said water used to cool the reactor was being collected in a special container. (Reuter)

LONDON: A seaman who had fallen overboard from a Soviet tanker and spent 18 hours in the water was returned to his ship Tuesday after being rescued by a Royal Navy helicopter, the Navy said.

The seaman, who gave only his first name, Albert, was picked up

Monday night near Madeira, the Navy said. He had been reported overboard from the tanker shortly after it left the Portuguese island.

He was rescued by a helicopter from the Argus, an aviation support ship that was on a training mission, the Navy said. (AP)

ROME: The Mafia is infiltrating Italian government ministries to try to control lucrative public contracts, a magistrate was quoted as saying on Wednesday.

Luigi de Ficchy, a specialist in organised crime at the Rome Public Prosecutor's Office, told the Communist Party newspaper L'Unita the process was part of a "genetic mutation" of the Mafia into a massive business enterprise.

"The Mafia is putting its hands on ministries and local health offices. It

is a slow and constant process of penetration of public administration," De Ficchy said.

De Ficchy's remarks follow official reports of increasing Mafia involvement in legitimate business as a means of re-investing huge profits from drugs trafficking and other illegal activities. (Reuter)

WASHINGTON: A federal appeals court Tuesday overturned the conviction of former Reagan administration aide Lyn Nofziger for illegally lobbying his White House colleagues months after he left the government.

In a 3-1 ruling, the panel said Nofziger's 1988 conviction must be set aside because it is not based on a finding that he had knowledge of each element of the offences," he was accused of committing.

"The government was required to prove that he had knowledge of all of the facts making his conduct criminal," said the decision written by US Circuit Court of Appeals Judge James Buckley. (AP)

BEIJING: A gas explosion in a coal mine in central China killed 22 people and injured three, the official Xinhua News Agency reported Wednesday.

It quoted Shanxi province's Coal Industry Bureau as saying the explosion occurred Saturday in a village-run coal mine in the suburbs of Jinzhong, a city 600 kilometres (372 miles) southwest of Beijing. The cause of the explosion is under investigation, Xinhua said. (AP)

PUERTO DE SANTA MARIA, Spain: A 20-hour takeover by convicts of a prison ended Wednesday with the release of 19 hostages and the return of the prisoners to their cells, a provincial office said.

The statement by the office of Cadiz Province and Civil Governor Placido Conde said negotiations with rioters led to their peaceful surrender at 6:15 am (0415 GMT).

The crisis ended after Conde and three prison officials involved in the talks permitted the radio broadcast of a recorded prisoners' message appealing for better prison conditions.

The statement said there were no reports of injuries during the rioting. But it added that one inmate apparently not involved in the rebellion fell from a rooftop and broke both legs. (AP)

HOUSTON: A 72-year-old nun recovering from emergency brain surgery spoke her first words Tuesday since being shot in the head by a gunman in El Salvador six days earlier, doctors said.

"Thanks be to God," Sister Mary Stanislaus Mackey, an orphanage worker, told doctors at St Joseph Hospital after being told of her medical condition.

Mackey was in critical condition and breathing on her own, said hospital spokeswoman Ana Draz. Emergency surgery Monday successfully removed a damaged portion of her brain in order to relieve pressure on the brain stem, Draz said.

"I'm hopeful that she'll recover. We still have some critical days ahead of us," said neuro surgeon Rob Parrish.

Parrish said it would be days or weeks before doctors would know whether the bullet had caused brain damage. He said the surgery should not cause any additional impairment. (UPI)

NEWARK, New Jersey: A jury convicted five men Monday of forming a mafia faction that shot to death a mob-linked businessman in a restaurant and plotted to kill John Gotti, reputed boss of a rival crime family.

Louis A. "Bobby" Manna, a reputed consigliere, or no. 3 leader, of the Genovese crime family, was convicted of racketeering conspiracy, racketeering, planning to kill Gotti and arranging the murder of businessman Irwin Schiff.

Gotti, reputed boss of the Gambino family, was a target because of a turf struggle, authorities said. His brother, Vincent, also allegedly was a target. The FBI tipped Gotti off about the slaying, which was not carried out.

The 350-pound (159-kilogram), free-spending Schiff was shot to death in 1987 over dessert at a restaurant on New York City's Upper East Side. (AP)

VIENNA, Austria: Czechoslovak authorities have seized the passport of Olga Havlova, the wife of dissident playwright Václav Havel, his brother said Tuesday.

She was planning to visit friends in Vienna.

"They told her that her trip abroad is against the interests of the state," Havel said, who was reached in Prague by telephone, told the Associated Press.

He said Havlova, who obtained a passport last year, applied for an exit visa several weeks ago. But when she submitted her passport for the visa Monday it was taken away from her by police. (AP)

MIAMI: Justice Department lawyers agreed to a judge's request on Tuesday to delay the deportation of anti-Castro militant Orlando Bosch, who federal authorities have accused of involvement in international terrorism.

Death ruling 'sends wrong message'

Japan sentences teenager to hang

WASHINGTON, June 28, (Reuter): A US Supreme Court decision allowing executions of young and mentally-retarded criminals puts the United States in a category with six other nations, including Iran and Iraq, according to figures compiled by a human rights group.

"We believe it definitely sends the wrong message to the rest of the world," said Janet Fink, chairman of the American Bar Association's Juvenile Justice Committee.

"If we allow ourselves to execute the young and those who have the mental age of the young we cannot call ourselves enlightened," she said yesterday.

The top US court ruled five-four on Monday that executions of the mentally-retarded or those under age 18 do not violate a constitutional ban on cruel and unusual punishment.

According to Amnesty International, 100 nations or territories retain the right to impose the death penalty but only six permit executions of criminals under 18 - Iran, Iraq, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Barbados and Rwanda.

Another 18 nations resort to execution only in the case of exceptional crimes such as those committed during war, Amnesty said.

"To impose the death penalty in such cases,

whether as retribution or as an intended deterrent, violates basic principles of humanity," Amnesty said in a statement from its London headquarters.

A construction worker was sentenced today to hang for a double murder committed when he was 19, the first time for 10 years a Japanese court has imposed the death penalty on a defendant who was a teenager at the time of the offence.

Judge Hiroshi Kojima of the Nagoya District Court in central Japan sentenced the unnamed man to death after finding him and five friends guilty of killing a young couple in a city park in February last year.

US posts for sale?

WASHINGTON, June 28, (UPI): Like the executive in the movie "Network," Senator Paul Sarbanes, Democrat-Maryland, said he wasn't going to take it anymore.

With other members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee seated around him, occasionally nodding in agreement, Sarbanes laid into the administration for the "sale" of US ambassadorships to fat-cat contributors to the Bush presidential campaign.

He listed some examples of the correlation between the amount contributed and the importance of the diplomatic post:

Joseph Zappala, a Florida real estate man, who gave \$126,000 to the Bush campaign, was nominated for Spain.

Melvin Sembler, another Florida businessman, was nominated as envoy to Australia. He gave \$127,000 to the Bush presidential campaign.

Sarbanes suggested there is a quota system in the administration with anything over \$100,000 in campaign contributions necessary for a middle-size diplomatic post — and no other qualifications required.

What appeared to trigger Sarbanes' rage was the way the administration pushed the nominations through the system. Sarbanes suggested, only half in jest, that perhaps the United States ought to put up ambassadorial nominations at public auction. "At least that way the money would go to the US treasury."

In one of the standard forms sent to the Foreign Relations Committee as part of the confirmation process, nominees are asked whether they have any special qualifications for their ambassadorial posts.

'Don't burn Old Glory'

Bush flag-waving

WASHINGTON, June 28, (Reuter): US President George Bush, who is no stranger to using the American flag as a political issue, has challenged the nation's highest court by asking for an amendment to the US Constitution which would make burning the flag a crime.

His call for action followed the court's controversial ruling last week that said flag-burning was a form of protest protected by free speech provisions in the First Amendment to the constitution.

"Flag-burning is wrong," the President said at a news conference yesterday.

"Protection of the flag, a unique national symbol, will in no way limit the opportunity nor the breadth of protest available in the exercise of free speech rights," he added.

Amending the US constitution is a difficult process. Thousands of amendments have been proposed, but in more than 200 years only 26 have been ratified.

Bush made the flag an issue against Democrat Michael Dukakis during the presidential election campaign last year by attacking the Massachusetts governor for vetoing a bill requiring schoolchildren to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

At a White House news conference that lasted nearly 45 minutes, Bush also vowed to "clean up any cynicism" at the scandal-ridden HUD and HUD mismanagement, which investigators say could cost US taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars.

"Let's not be trying to find winners and losers," he said. "I want to guarantee the American people that we are not going to have a crooked HUD and special favours and giving contracts because of who you know." 321

Both Zappala and Sembler responded with identical words: "I have been known as a coalition builder. I am able to organize my colleagues and peers to action in support of worthwhile civic, charitable and political causes."

The identical wording suggested the answers came from some word-processing software, and implies a certain lack of respect for the whole confirmation process.

Sarbanes is aware that other presidents, including Democratic ones, also returned political favours by nominating people to diplomatic posts, but he thinks the Bush administration has overstepped the line of decency.

"Occasionally, you have to hold your nose and vote for such appointments," said Sarbanes. "But with this administration, it happens again and again and again. Someone ought to say 'stop', and that's what I'm doing today."

He put a senatorial "hold" on the nominations before the committee, a delaying process that is unusual in such a short time.

Of 39 ambassadorial nominations sent forward by the Bush administration so far, 29 are political nominees and only 10 are professional diplomats.



Ochoa: on trial

Cuban: I deserve to die for treason

HAVANA, June 28, (Agencies): A Cuban general at the centre of the biggest drugs and corruption scandal since President Fidel Castro came to power 30 years ago has told a military court he deserved to die for treason.

"I have betrayed the fatherland. Treason must be paid for with one's life," General Arnaldo Ochoa Sanchez told the court yesterday.

Cuban television showed edited extracts of court proceedings in a special programme lasting nearly four hours, during which Ochoa said: "There is no reason to live. I have no hope left."

Ochoa, a former commander of Cuban troops in Angola and Ethiopia, has been charged with helping smuggle six tonnes of cocaine between 1986 and 1989 to the United States through military air bases in Cuba. According to court papers, he had six accomplices.

The Military Court of Havana, which opened its hearing on Sunday, has recommended that Ochoa be tried by a special military court for treason. No date has been set for the trial.

The televised extracts included testimony from all 45 generals and the two admirals on the tribunal. Ochoa, once a highly respected Army officer, denied his motives were political.

Asked by court president General Ulfes Rosales del Toro about possible divisions within the armed forces, version Rosales said were played up abroad by anti-government Cuban exiles, he replied: "There is no truth in that. It could not be farther from the truth. I was never and I am not against the revolution."

Diplomats said Ochoa's own admission and the charge of high treason left no doubt he would face a firing squad.

The Court of Honour heard that Ochoa's part in an international drug trafficking network controlled by Colombia's Medellin drug cartel had been demonstrated and that his alleged smuggling role undermined Cuba's international prestige and security.

In addition to trafficking in cocaine, Ochoa is accused of conducting a thriving black market trade in supplies provided to the Cuban troops he commanded in Angola in 1987 and 1988.

The Cuban News Agency Prensa Latina said Ochoa also traded fuel, dried fish and beef, weapons, electronics and other supplies for diamonds and dollars.

Ochoa denied that Castro nor any other leading Cuban government official was involved in his drug running.

"Neither the Commander-in-Chief (Castro) nor the (defence) minister, nor party, nor the armed forces, ever had anything to do with this... I wanted to make this clear," Ochoa told the tribunal.

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Ex-wife of Hurt testifies

NEW YORK, June 28, (Agencies): A judge will rule within 60 days whether the former lover of actor William Hurt can sue him for divorce and ask for half his fortune, estimated at \$10 million.

The trial to determine whether Hurt and the mother of his 6-year-old son had a common-law marriage ended with Hurt's ex-wife, actress Mary Beth Hurt, testifying on his behalf.

Ms Hurt said she had urged her then-husband to marry his pregnant lover but he rejected the idea, saying he would never wed again.

Manhattan State Supreme Court Justice Jacqueline Silbermann said yesterday she will accept briefs with closing arguments from the lawyers and render a decision in the near future.

Earlier in the day, Ms Hurt testified that she and Hurt had discussed finalising their divorce and his relationship with former ballerina Sandra Jennings in a September 1982 meeting.

Ms Hurt said that, except for a brief reconciliation in 1978, she and Hurt had been separated since 1975 and she asked him why he wanted to complete the divorce at that time. She said he replied, "because Sandy's having a baby."

"I asked him, 'Are you going to marry her?'" Ms Hurt said. She said Hurt replied, "No, I'm through with marriage."

Hurt's friend, William Berlinger, testified that Jennings told him she was "miserably unhappy" with Hurt and wanted out of their relationship.

"The one thing I won't do is that I'll never marry him (Hurt)," Berlinger quoted Jennings as saying.

PEOPLE AND PLACES



'Tommy' at the Big Apple

Roger Daltrey, lead singer of the rock band, The Who, performs the rock opera 'Tommy' during a concert at Radio City Music Hall in New York City on Tuesday. The concert is part of The Who's 25th anniversary tour. (Reuters wirephoto).

PARIS: French undersea explorer Jacques Cousteau has floated a whale over Paris to promote his new Museum of the Sea, due to open July 11 in Paris' Les Halles district.

The (100-foot) 30-metre deep blue plastic mammal came up for air on Sunday, bobbing in clear blue skies high above the traffic swirling around the Arc de Triomphe.

Cousteau, 79, who was admitted to the Academie Francaise last Thursday, said the lifelike balloon-beast would join other creatures in the aquarium. (AP)

TOKYO: One in three Japanese favour moving the capital out of Tokyo because the city of 11.6 million is so crowded, a government poll indicates.

The poll, conducted by the prime minister's office and released Tuesday, found 32.2 per cent of respondents favoured relocation, with 17 per cent opposed. Another 34.3 per cent were undecided and 16.1 per cent had no answer. (AP)

UTICA, New York: Former White House aide Oliver North read from the Bible at the wedding of his brother, Timothy.

"I haven't granted an interview in two years and all I will say is that I am glad to be here for my brother's wedding," North said after Saturday's ceremony at Sacred Heart Church in West Utica.

During the ceremony, North read from the Book of Psalms in a leather-bound Bible. "The Lord is kind and merciful to those who fear him," he said.

Outside church, North joked with guests and obliged all who wanted their picture taken with the former Marine lieutenant colonel. That included a woman in shorts who ran over to him holding up an Ollic North T-shirt and telling him he was her hero.

North hugged her and said, "God bless you... Thank you."

A federal jury in Washington last month convicted North of three felonies and acquitted him of nine other charges in the scandal. He faces up to 10 years in prison at sentencing July 5. (AP)

DALLAS: A man dressed in a gorilla suit who refused to identify himself gave away more than \$6,000 in \$50 bills during the past two weeks to strangers he met on the streets of Dallas.

The man, who spoke to Reuters on Tuesday by telephone but would not give his name or say where he was calling from, said he gave the money away just for the thrill of seeing the look on the faces of the people when he handed them the cash.

"It's a heck of a lot of fun," the man said.

On each of the last two weekends he called a limousine service and rented a car for a few hours. He told the driver, Becky Gilkey, when and where to stop.

"He's a nut-case all right," Gilkey said. "But people love it." (Reuters)

LONDON: Soviet concert pianist Vladimir Ashkenazy said Tuesday he will perform in Moscow in November, 26 years after announcing he would never go back.

The pianist told a news conference that the "historic changes" in the Soviet Union made him change his mind.

Glasnost and perestroika had made his homeland a "normal and civilised country" and he considered it his personal duty to be part of the new era, he said.

Ashkenazy is music director of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, which he will take to Moscow. He said he will conduct two concerts at the Moscow Conservatoire, Nov 11 and 12, and perform a Mozart concerto in the first of them. (AP)

AMSTERDAM: A small Dutch shipyard is on the verge of signing a contract to build the world's biggest and most luxurious yacht for flamboyant American multi-millionaire Donald Trump, a company spokesman said on Tuesday.

Andries Boema, financial controller of shipyard Assen Huisland in the small northern fishing village of Makkum, said his company was negotiating to build the 130-metre (420-foot) yacht.

Boema refused to comment on the report in Dutch newspaper Volkskrant that the price for the would-top 300 million guilders (\$136 million). (Reuters)

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil: Tall, young and lovely, the girls from Rio are walking right out of Brazil.

The statuesque showgirls, who dance the hip-swinging samba, are the latest casualties of an economic crisis which regularly clears supermarket shelves of goods like coffee and sugar.

Nightclub owners say the women — dubbed mistresses because of their coffee-coloured skin — who star in shows and in Rio's carnival parade are being tempted by overseas dollars.

"They come and take the girls from our shows. Sometimes we haven't even finished training them," said Elias Abidat, owner of Rio's Oba-Oba Night Club.

Showgirls earn a lot in Brazilian terms, with monthly wages of \$600 at market rates or 10 times the minimum wage.

But just as other Brazilians, showgirls' wages have been eaten away by crippling inflation which hit 934 per cent last year and foreigners are offering twice as much. (Reuters)

LOS ANGELES: A 37-ton LC-130 "Hercules" cargo plane, salvaged from Antarctic ice and snow more than 16 years after it crashed, is expected to arrive in California this week, US Navy officials said Tuesday.

The airplane is just in the final stages of rework at Air New Zealand in Christchurch. "Cade Kellie Armstrong said in a telephone interview from Point Mugu Naval Air Station.

The huge, once-icebound Hercules is expected to arrive Friday at the Navy's Antarctic Development Squadron 6, the "Puckered Penguins" who fly support missions for the National Science Foundation in Antarctica.

Mafia fighter 'a walking dead man'

ROME, June 28, (Reuters): He looks like an anti-Mafia magistrate from central casting.

Handsome, moustachioed, a cheroot hanging from his lips, Giovanni Falcone, 50, looks every inch the part as Italy's most famous organised crime fighter.

But his nervous squad of heavily-armed bodyguards, and a narrow escape from an attempted bombing last week, quickly drive home the cold truth that Falcone is playing no film role and the risks are deadly serious.

He is one of the most heavily-protected men in Italy, a sensible precaution for the investigating magistrate who has been top of the mob's death list for years.

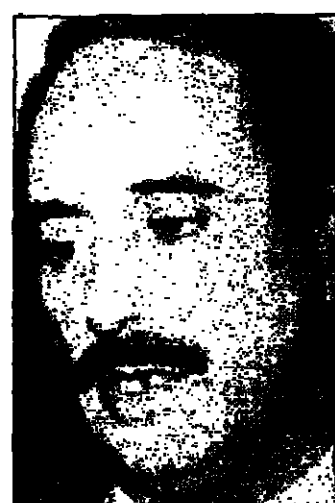
"The Mafia consider him a walking dead man," said a senior Palermo police officer who asked not to be named. He said Fal-

cone's death had become a question of "honour" as well as self-defence for the underworld society.

"Look, I've been entered in the bad books and I've been condemned for a long time. For the Mafia it's just a question of the right moment," Falcone said in an extremely rare telephone interview with Corriere Della Sera after last week's almost successful attempt on his life.

In a chilling reminder of the Mafia's determination to kill him, hit-men planted a huge, sophisticated bomb outside a villa he had hired for the summer at the seaside near Palermo.

Only the alertness and training of one of his bodyguards, who spotted what looked like an abandoned diver's bag on the shore in front of the villa, avoided



Falcone: condemned a devastating explosion which would have killed Falcone, his fellow magistrate wife, and anyone else in the area.

It was a bomb with an impact force of 100 metres (yards) capable of disintegrating everything in a range of 50 metres," said one explosives expert.

In his usual sardonic style, Falcone said the bomb did not surprise him: "I'm at the top of that death list, what else should I expect?"

Falcone, himself a Sicilian, was architect of the biggest ever judicial blow against the Mafia, a mass trial which sentenced 338 gangsters to long jail terms in late 1987.

He has an unrivalled knowledge of the criminal society's mysterious inner workings and has been personally involved in many of the biggest investigations.

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2nd strain of AIDS virus in NYC

NEW YORK, June 28, (Reuters): A second strain of the deadly AIDS virus, extremely rare in the United States but widespread in Western Africa, has been identified in New York City, the city's Health Department said yesterday.

The strain, called HIV-2, was detected in four blood samples taken recently by the department, said Dr Rand Stoneburner, director of AIDS research at the agency.

"We are in the process of investigating the cases and so far they are likely to be from the part of the world where HIV-2 is endemic and that is West Africa," Stoneburner said.

HIV-2 infections have also been reported in

Europe, most notably Portugal, as well as Brazil. The HIV-1 strain is the one commonly found in the United States.

Stoneburner said a 1987 US Food and Drug Administration study of 23,000 individual blood samples taken nationally showed no identified cases of HIV-2 infection.

In San Francisco, meanwhile, a group of doctors has started testing a promising anti-AIDS drug, Compound Q, in humans without waiting for the results of government-authorised tests.

Organisers of the tests said yesterday that the drug, derived from a Chinese cucumber, has been administered so far to about three dozen people.

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INTERNATIONAL

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hungarian leader

BUDAPEST, June 28, (AP): Hungarian Communist Party leader Karoly Grosz, his power severely curbed after the formation of a four-man collective leadership, said in an interview published yesterday that he wants to quit.

Interviewed by Mai Nap, an independent afternoon daily, on Monday at the party headquarters in Budapest, Grosz said "I will no longer be (party) general secretary after (parliamentary) elections (scheduled for next year)."

American battleship

DEN HELDER, June 28, (AP): A nuclear-powered American battleship was damaged when it ran aground off the Dutch coast yesterday, and it was awaiting repairs in this northern Navy port, a Dutch Defence Ministry spokesman said.

The incident did not involve the USS Bainbridge's nuclear reactor, and no one on the ship was injured, said spokesman Paul Hager.

Political allies

WELLINGTON, June 28, (AP): Prime Minister David Lange's political allies have changed their travel plans so they can remain in Wellington to support him during a potential challenge to his leadership this week.

Political analysts say the dispute between Lange and his former finance minister, Roger Douglas, could lead to a challenge to the prime minister's leadership, the New Zealand Press Association reported.

Angolan refugees

UNITED NATIONS, June 28, (UNA): Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar reported an "atmosphere of fear and intimidation" in northern Namibia that is blocking the return of the refugees from Angola.

The situation in the area also mitigates against conditions for a free and fair election in the territory, Perez de Cuellar told the Security Council during consultations yesterday.

US security

WASHINGTON, June 28, (Reuters): Energy Secretary James Watkins said yesterday he plans to open to greater public scrutiny once super-secret US nuclear weapons production plants and to accelerate the cleanup of nuclear wastes.

"I've undertaken these extraordinary steps to help restore public credibility in the department's ability to safely operate its unique defence, research, and test facilities," Watkins told a news conference.

Return of refugees

BANGKOK, June 28, (AP): The Thai military has decided to return about 500 Cambodian refugees to Khmer Rouge control, a Thai security official said yesterday.

The refugees had fled the Khmer Rouge-run refugee camp of Kaie after it was attacked in mid-April and to the nearby Sok Sann camp run by the non-Communist Khmer People's National Liberation Front.

Rebels kill 34

LISBON, June 28, (UPI): Right-wing guerrillas, ignoring a Mozambican government peace offer, said yesterday they killed 34 soldiers, attacked a vital northern railroad and captured large amounts of war material last week.

In a statement distributed in Lisbon, the Mozambican National Resistance (RENAMO) guerrillas said they suffered 13 dead and 7 wounded in four strikes over four days ending June 23 in central Sofala province and northern Nampula province.

19 drowned

ZANZIBAR, June 28, (Reuters): Nineteen people were feared drowned after their sailing boat capsized off the Indian ocean island of Zanzibar, police said today.

The accident occurred on Monday when the wooden dhow was caught by strong winds while sailing from the neighbouring island of Pemba to Zanzibar.

Unexpected gift

PARIS, June 28, (UPI): An expected present is awaiting Mikhail Gorbachev at the Soviet embassy in Paris upon his arrival on July 4, officials of the France-USSR Association said today.

The gift, a Russian monopoly game, is based on the ideas of capitalism where two or more players engage in mock real estate transactions with play money, but is adapted to fit Soviet reality.

Gorbachev is expected to stay in Paris until July 6 and it is unsure whether he will accept the gift because monopoly is not permitted in the Soviet Union, said the officials of France-USSR Association, which seeks to promote friendship and cultural ties between the two countries.

Euro-research

ESTORIL, Portugal, June 28, (Reuters): Defence Ministers from 13 European countries agreed today to launch a joint programme in defence research and technology to bolster Europe's competitiveness.

"The aim is to forge — via production, research and development — a situation in which Europeans have a greater development capacity in the area of defence," Portuguese Defence Minister Eurico de Melo said.

Irish prime minister facing fight for political life

DUBLIN, June 28, (Reuters): Ireland headed into a political crisis today that could leave Prime Minister Charles Haughey, six seats short of a parliamentary majority, fighting for survival.

All the opposition parties have decided to vote against him when parliament reassembles tomorrow to pick a new prime minister.

Haughey, known as "The Great Survivor" in Irish politics, is seeking a fourth term. But he made the biggest blunder of his rollercoaster career in calling a snap general election

that left him worse off than before. The Progressive Democrats, formed three years ago by Haughey dissidents, dashed his hopes of scraping back to power when their six deputies decided on last night to vote against him.

Fine Gael, the main opposition party with 55 seats in parliament, have demanded a high price for their support — an equal number of seats in cabinet and an Israeli-style rotation of the post of prime minister.

Haughey, whose Fianna Fail Party has 77

of the 165 seats in parliament, ruled that out as unacceptable and unworkable.

The resurgent left have said no to Haughey too. The Labour and Workers Party, who together won 22 seats in the June 15 election, have ruled out any form of coalition.

So for the first time in the 68-year history of the Irish state, parliament looks set to fail in its task of electing a new prime minister.

Another general election could be the only way of breaking the deadlock.



A young Serbian boy sits on his grandfather's shoulders while they and thousands of other Serbs pour into Kosovo. (Reuters wirephoto)

Kosovo battle feted

Serbs take to the streets

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia, June 28, (AP): Hundreds of thousands of Serbs poured into the troubled province of Kosovo to mark the anniversary today of a defeat by Turks 600 years ago that started a centuries-long struggle against Islam.

According to independent estimates, some 300,000 people converged on the site of the 1389 battle, a field just outside the provincial capital of Pristina. State television put the number at 1.5 million.

The television featured live broadcasts of religious ceremonies at the Gracanica Monastery. It was the first time in the country's communist history that television broadcast religious services live at such length, indicative of improving relations between the state and the Serbian Orthodox Church.

In addition to the religious ceremonies, Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic was to deliver an anniversary speech. His portrait was plastered on cars and buses.

Milosevic has led the Serbs' drive to increase Serbian control over Kosovo.

The province, once the heartland of Serbia's medieval kingdom, is dominated today by ethnic Albanians, who make up 85 per cent of its 1.9 million

inhabitants. It gained broad autonomy under the 1974 constitution.

Milosevic's campaign, which he and his millions of supporters say is needed to protect Serbs in the province from harassment by ethnic Albanians, has triggered a rise in tension in Kosovo.

In March, just after Serbia passed constitutional amendments increasing its control of schools, police and judiciary in the province, at least 23 ethnic Albanians died in clashes with police. Two policemen were killed and hundreds of ethnic Albanians detained.

There were fears that today's Serbian celebration could further heighten ethnic tension between them and the predominantly Muslim Albanians.

The Serbian ceremonies have a heavily religious slant, since the 1389 defeat by the Ottoman Turks marked the start of five centuries in which they struggled to keep alive their Orthodox Christian faith under Muslim rule.

The defeat at Kosovo Polje (The Field of the Black Bird) delivered a final blow to the already crumbling Serbian kingdom and led to the spread of Islam in south and southeastern Europe.

Botha shouts down W.German minister

Apartheid vs Nazi past

JOHANNESBURG, June 28, (Reuters): South African President P.W. Botha shouted at a visiting West German cabinet minister, interrupted him and asserted he was not qualified to discuss apartheid because of Germany's Nazi past.

Details of a row between Botha and Bonn's Labour Minister Norbert Blum were given by sources in the minister's delegation today, a day after the two men met for 40 minutes in Pretoria.

The meeting began amicably enough, the sources said, with Botha lauding the beauty of the minister's homeland.

Blum said he was not interested in small talk because he wanted to discuss the apartheid race laws for which South Africa is almost universally vilified.

"Botha turned unfriendly", one source said. The South African President, known for his short temper and imperious, finger-jabbing style, started shouting at Blum and interrupted him repeatedly.

He disputed Blum's right to criticise conditions in South Africa in view of the Nazi background in Germany.

Blum, who himself has a

reputation for candour, responded that it was precisely because of Nazism that West Germans spoke out against abuses of human rights wherever they saw them, the sources said.

The tone of the conversation did not improve.

Botha dismissed a request by Blum to see jailed leader Nelson Mandela, and refused to accept a list of 78 people on South Africa's death row that Blum offered in order to show Bonn's opposition to the death penalty.

The South African leader directed Blum to take the list to Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee.

This Blum promptly did, striding through Pretoria streets to the Justice Ministry even though a meeting with Coetsee was not on his schedule, the sources said.

Blum, the first West German minister to visit South Africa in 11 years. A West German embassy spokesman said another such visit was not anticipated soon.

A South African church leader said yesterday that the Soviet Union should join the international effort against South Africa's apartheid racial policy.

1 dead, 13 injured in bombings

LONDONDERRY, Northern Ireland, June 28, (Agencies): A bobby-trap bomb killed a police reservist in a country hamlet late yesterday, hours after an incendiary bomb exploded in a paint store in Londonderry, injuring 13 people.

David Black, 34, a full-time reserve constable, died when a bomb exploded under his car outside his home in Ballymagorry, 20 kilometres (12 miles) south of Londonderry, said Belfast Press Officer Sgt Margaret Breakey.

Black, married with an 18-month-old daughter, was on his way to visit his recently widowed mother, Breakey said.

"He had only started driving away when the car exploded into a ball of flames," a neighbour said. "There was nothing anyone could do, he didn't have a chance."

An 8-year-old boy was among 13 civilians injured, three seriously, when a bomb exploded yesterday afternoon in a paint shop in Londonderry, about 80 miles (128 km) northwest of Belfast.

A police spokesman said Irish Republican Army had claimed responsibility for both bombings.

E. Europe is major concern for big-7

Bush will encourage reforms

WASHINGTON, June 25, (AP): Fostering moves toward democracy in Eastern Europe is likely to be a major concern of Western leaders meeting next month in Paris, President George Bush said yesterday.

Bush noted at a news conference that he would be visiting Poland and Hungary on his way to Paris and wanted to do what he could to encourage reforms there without provoking a government backlash.

He said he was working on a package of economic assistance for Poland "that I hope will help."

"I know this will be a subject of great concern ... in our summit," said Bush.

Senior US State Department officials said Bush and leaders of Britain, Canada, France, West Germany, Japan and Italy also are likely to decry repression in China at their annual talks July 15-16.

The officials, who briefed foreign reporters on condition they not be identified, said other topics proposed by aides for the leaders to discuss include the global environment, the world economy, terrorism, drug trafficking and chemical weapons.

The officials declined to go into detail about what was being planned for Eastern Europe, but said one, "my sense is that everybody wants to be helpful and ... that everybody will be helpful."

"If we did not have many other competing requirements for resources, there would be an even larger response than I think you're going to see," he said.

"People are certainly going to be doing some things specifically to be helpful."

The official said the size of the assistance "is under discussion, but there will undoubtedly be things that are to be done specifically to be helpful to the countries in Eastern Europe that are trying to evolve."

"What we can do from the outside is limited," he said. "We can be sympathetic, we can provide limited amounts of aid, but the basic task of transforming the political and economic structures of any country are in the hands of their own people."

Other issues will be of major concern for the leaders, the officials said.

"What's happened in China is obviously going to be very, very important for the leaders to talk about, what they might do collectively or individually in that area," he said, but acknowledged that there was little the leaders could do.

"Obviously the environment is something that has become a very central focus for all countries," said an official. "There is going to be considerable discussion on this topic without any doubt — issues like global climate change, deforestation, pollution of the oceans, hazardous waste, acid rain, ozone depletion."

He said he expected the leaders to talk about what action they might take together to protect the environment.

The pace of reform in Poland and Hungary is picking up even as Bush gets set to visit the two East European countries — with assurance to Moscow he will not try to overhaul their economies or pose a threat to the Soviet Union.

While Bush yesterday was advising Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev not to get "upright" about his trip to Warsaw and Budapest, US officials said privately the second stage of elections in Poland and a revamping of the Communist Party leadership in Hungary have improved the trend to democracy.

There is uncertainty who will eventually become prime minister of Poland, however, and the reshuffling in Hungary may require a change in protocol on such delicate issues as who sits next to Bush at dinner. A four-man ruling body has sharply reduced the power of general secretary Karoly Grosz.

"He'll still see the same Hungarians, but in what order?" said a US official.

In both countries Bush will meet with prominent leaders of the opposition, and he is bound to dwell on his session with Lech Walesa, the leader of the Polish trade union movement Solidarity.

No decision yet

Missile battery for summit

PARIS, June 28, (Reuters): The French Defence Ministry has not yet decided whether to install ground-to-air missiles in Paris to protect leaders at next month's Western summit from possible airborne attack.

A ministry spokesman confirmed yesterday the authenticity of a letter from an Air Force general to the mayor of one of Paris' 20 precincts asking to set up a missile battery on a bridge over the River Seine.

But he said "no definite decision" had been taken.

The mayor, conservative Jacques Toubon, gave parliamentary reporters copies of the letter, telling them the Socialist government had gone "power-mad."

The conservative daily Le Figaro quipped today that a few frigates in the Seine would not be a bad idea either.

The controversy had sparked a smouldering row over what critics say is an over-ambitious schedule for July 10 to 17.

In that week, Paris will not only host leaders of the world's seven top industrialised nations, but also a score of heads of state invited to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the French Revolution.

To add to security and traffic headaches, tens of thousands of tourists are expected, and private cars have been ordered off the streets for peak periods.



Curtain comes down

A group of Hungarian soldiers tear down the 'Iron Curtain' on the Hungarian and Austrian borders during a visit by the two countries' foreign ministers on Tuesday afternoon. (Reuters wirephoto)

Testing accord near

N-weapon exploded

PAHUTE MESA, Nevada, June 28,

(UPI): Scientists exploded a nuclear weapon beneath the Nevada desert yesterday while envoys in Geneva expressed confidence the nuclear testing verification issue, including on-site monitoring, would be resolved within five to six weeks.

Both men were in Nevada last year to witness a joint verification experiment as a prelude to the Geneva talks.

The nuclear test, code-named "Amarillo", had a punch up to 11 times greater than the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima during World War I.

Residents in Las Vegas, 105 miles from ground zero, felt little or no earth motion. The blast measured 4.6 on the Richter Scale at the Earthquake Information Centre in Golden, Colorado.

Last week, a similar nuclear test beneath Pahute Mesa awayed Las Vegas high-rise resorts and measured 5.2 on seismic equipment.

Before nuclear testing talks resumed in Geneva this week, US delegation leader C. Paul Robinson and his Soviet counterpart, Igor Palyukh, expressed confidence the nuclear testing verification issue, including on-site monitoring, would be resolved within five to six weeks.

Both men were in Nevada last year to witness a joint verification experiment as a prelude to the Geneva talks.

The test was a success. No radiation leaked into the atmosphere," Boyer said yesterday while monitoring the nuclear test from a control point about 30 miles from ground zero on the Nevada test site.

Star Wars take a hit

B-52's wings clipped

WASHINGTON, June 28, (UPI): The House of Representatives armed services committee kept the V-22 tiltrotor plane alive at the expense of the B-2 Stealth bomber yesterday, refused to kill the Midgetman missile and cut \$1.1 billion from "Star Wars."

The actions came in a daylong committee session to decide what to do with \$305 billion in fiscal 1990 defence spending, of which the Pentagon's share is \$295.6 billion. The rest is in defence-related nuclear programme at the Energy Department.

The controversial V-22, dubbed the "Osprey", can take off and land like a helicopter but fly like an aircraft using rotating propeller and engine pods at wing ends.

Defence Secretary Richard Cheney killed the V-22, a Marine Corps project developed by Bell Helicopter and Boeing's Vertol helicopter division, and the Grumman Corp's F-14D Tomcat when he submitted the Bush administration's budget revisions. Both programmes have strong support in Congress.

Yesterday's committee work was a forerunner to debates today on whether to accept

Cheney's procurement budget as is or rearrange it, chiefly to rescue production money for the V-22 and F-14D at the expense of the B-2, which is earmarked for \$2.7 billion in production next year.

Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams said Cheney has "made some calls to members of the full committee in advance of their votes in the next few days."

The Osprey's victory came on a 31-19 vote against an attempt to take away about \$300 million in V-22 research money that a subcommittee had given it by cutting the \$1.8 billion sought for B-2 research to \$1.5 billion.

The V-22 programme is expected to run about \$25 billion for 663 planes.

The Midgetman missile survived on a 39-12 vote against an attempt by Representative Ron Dellums, a California Democrat, to "terminate the Midgetman for all time."

The committee rejected 39-12 Bush's \$4.6 billion request for the Strategic Defence Initiative, the official name for the proposed space-based shield more popularly known as "Star Wars."

Pretty geishas put Uno to bed

TOKYO, June 28, (Agencies): Japan's Prime Minister Souda Uno is so shaken by fresh rumours of his involvement in a squalid sex scandal that he had to be put to bed by ruling party elders, a party aide said today.

An employee at the premier's residence and a party aide told Reuters Uno was put to bed last night by senior party members staying there to discuss the scandal.

"I thought he might have had a nervous breakdown last night," said the aide.

"The whole thing is he freaked out over how he's going to appear overseas at the (Paris) summit next month," he said.

"He's afraid those leaders won't even want to shake hands with him."

Uno, who has denied that he offered to resign yesterday but was persuaded not to by Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) elders, is due to attend a summit of the world's seven top industrialised nations in the French capital in July.

The public broadcasting network NHK and major newspapers said Uno made the offer after hearing of a magazine story about a new sex scandal.

Bernard Krisher, editor of the gossip magazine Focus, said he was called by Uno's office late yesterday about a report it will publish this week of Uno's alleged affair with a 16-year-old apprentice geisha.

"His people denied the report, saying he couldn't possibly have been involved since it costs too much," Krisher told Reuters.

Focus

Uno's personal secretary said he was sure the reports were untrue. But he added: "You have to ask the prime minister himself about these reports."

Focus will also report in the same issue, to be published on Friday, that a close Uno aide belonged to a prostitution club, Krisher said.

The secretary, who declined to be identified, denied the report.

Uno's wife, a woman's magazine, published a story yesterday alleging Uno had an affair years ago with a bar hostess and he asked her to have an abortion.

It said Uno had affairs with a hostess in the Ginza entertainment district from 1962 to 1972 and with another geisha from 1975 to 1984.

Uno's secretary said: "Japan's mass media write all kinds of things. I haven't read it of course, but I'm sure it's not correct."

Local media said LDP elders talked Uno out of resigning last night, arguing that it would mean domestic political chaos and a loss of international credibility.

Such fears sent Tokyo stock prices plunging today as investors worried that the LDP's 34-year grip on power was unravelling quickly.

The party is expected to lose heavily in elections to parliament's upper house on July 23 because of voter discontent over a new sales tax, the Recruit political scandal and allegations of sexual misconduct.

Shiori, a professor of politics at Tokai University, said he expects the prime minister to step down after the polls.

Uno's predecessor, Noboru Takeshita, quit in June to take responsibility for a scandal in which the Recruit publishing and telecommunications conglomerate allegedly gave away cash and cut-rate shares in return for political favours.

Labelled "Mr. Clean" by a ruling party with a severe image problem, Uno has been battered by allegations of sexual misconduct since taking office early this month.

A few weeks ago, a news magazine reported that Uno had paid about three million (\$20,000) to keep a 40-year-old geisha for four months.

Force

The woman later repeated the allegations on television. Other magazines have published reports of further affairs involving Uno.

Uno cannot be punished under Japan's lenient laws on prostitution even if accusations he hired geishas for sex are proven true, a lawyer said today.

Japan's Anti-Prostitution Law of 1956 provides for punishment of prostitutes, including up to five years in jail and a fine of up to \$1,400, but does not punish the customers, said Yaeo Taketaka, a lawyer who specialises in prostitution law.

"The view of the government is selling your body is a crime but buying sex is not," Taketaka said.

Allegations of sexual misconduct against Uno might help to turn the normally meek woman of male-dominated Japan into a potent political force.

Greece still in search of a government

ATHENS, June 28, (AP): The Communist coalition that rejected Socialist and conservative offers to form a temporary government received its own mandate today to try to break Greece's political deadlock.

Greece has been run by a caretaker government since the June 18 national elections failed to give any party an absolute majority in the 300-seat unicameral parliament.

Leader of the Coalition of Left and Progress, Harilaos Florakis, with an exploratory mandate in hand opened negotiations with the conservatives but it appeared that his efforts would be unsuccessful.

Florakis started talks with New Democracy Party leader Constantine Mitsotakis last night with another meeting scheduled for today.

The leftists had rejected a joint rule

proposal made yesterday by a representative of Andreas Papandreu, the ailing caretaker premier and head of the Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK). The Socialist's mandate expired last night. The Socialists who had ruled the country since 1981, came in a distant second to the Conservatives in the general election.

The three-day exploratory mandate was given to Florakis after President

Christos Sartzetakis returned from Madrid from the EEC summit conference.

The coalition which finished third in the elections with 28 parliamentary seats was in a power broker's position since New Democracy took 145 seats and PASOK 125.

Florakis said his party wants a coalition government of "widespread acceptance" in order to cleanse Greek

political life and bring former PASOK ministers accused of involvement in a major financial scandal to trial.

"We want a government that will not be accused of attempting to cover up the scandals, a government that will not be accused of seeking revenge," Florakis said.

New Democracy has already indicated it will reject the coalition's

proposal if Mitsotakis doesn't head the new government.

If the coalition fails, Sartzetakis then calls in the party leaders and asks them to set aside their differences and form a national unity government. If that attempt is unsuccessful, a caretaker administration composed of prominent nonpartisans is appointed to prepare the country for new national elections.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Crash settlement

LOS ANGELES, June 28, (AP): Families of all 42 people killed when a fired airline employee brought down a jetliner with a gun in 1987 have settled their lawsuits for a total of more than \$20 million.

The plaintiffs announced yesterday they had accepted settlements shortly before lawyers were to give closing arguments in the three-week superior court trial to determine liability in the crash.

US storms

HOUSTON, June 28, (AP): A slow-moving storm named Allison dumped more than a foot (30 cms) of rain in the Houston area, flooding homes and roads, and spun off at least eight tornadoes in Louisiana that tore into more than 100 homes, officials said.

At least two deaths were blamed on Allison, which at its height reached the status of tropical storm, the first of the Atlantic hurricane season. Southeastern Texas began drying out today, although scores of people remained out of their homes because of streams and rivers that continued to flood.

Airbus crash case

MULHOUSE, France, June 28, (UPI): The head of Air France's security/flight analysis department was indicted for manslaughter today in the crash of an Airbus A320 that killed three people and injured 50 others last summer.

Investigating judge Marie-Catherine Marchioni indicted Jacques Gauthier in connection with the crash on June 26, 1988, during an airshow demonstration in eastern France.

Cocaine for delivery

DETROIT, June 28, (Reuters): Detroit health officials said today that a growing number of women, poor and affluent, are taking cocaine during labour to speed delivery.

They said the practice, said to be spreading across the United States, endangers both the baby and the mother.

East German Airbus

EAST BERLIN, June 28, (Reuters): East Germany's brand-new West European Airbus airliner was forced to cut short an endurance flight today after its automatic navigation system failed, the official ADN news agency said.

International treaty

NAIROBI, June 28, (Reuters): The UN's top environment official said today that an international treaty to tackle global warming could be ready in three years.

Global warming results from the build-up in the atmosphere of carbon dioxide and other gases discharged by industry and agriculture which produce a so-called "greenhouse" effect.

Indonesian baby

KUALA LUMPUR, June 28, (AP): A one-year-old baby girl probably saved the lives of 18 fellow Indonesians adrift at sea after their boat capsized in a storm, the national news agency Bernama reported today.

One of the Indonesians clinging to the boat held the baby up high to attract the attention of the crew of the merchant vessel Trans Sun in the Straits of Malacca, about 400 kms (210 miles) northwest of Kuala Lumpur, Bernama said.

Soviet warships

ISTANBUL, June 28, (AP): Two Soviet warships sailed through the Bosphorus Strait and put into port in Istanbul today on a five-day visit to Turkey, an Istanbul port source said.

The two ships, which requested anonymity, identified the vessels as the guided missile cruiser Kech and the guided missile destroyer Komosetskiy.

Panama crisis

PANAMA CITY, June 28, (UPI): The wives of 19 Panamanian military officers jailed following last year's attempt to overthrow Gen. Manuel Noriega asked the embassies of Costa Rica, Venezuela and Spain to grant their husbands political asylum if they are released.

The prisoners' wives and relatives delivered letters yesterday to the embassies, requesting the military officers be granted political asylum if they are released, Panamanian human rights activists told United Press International.

Nicaraguan agent

TEGUCIGALPA, June 28, (Reuters): An alleged Nicaraguan intelligence officer turned himself in to Honduran officials for revealing a plot to kill President Jose Azcona and three other prominent Hondurans.

Orlando Solarzano Martinez, who said he was a captain in the Sandinista Intelligence Service, spoke to reporters in San Pedro Sula, a town 125 kms (115 miles) north of the Honduran capital, before he turned himself in to local authorities yesterday.

SAARC summit

ISLAMABAD, June 28, (AP): A summit of South Asian foreign ministers was cancelled today after Sri Lanka refused to attend, a Foreign Ministry official said.

Sri Lanka said it would boycott the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation summit of foreign ministers to protest India's refusal to withdraw its troops from the island nation, said the official, who spoke on the usual condition he not be identified.

Helicopter crash

CORFU, Greece, June 28, (AP): An American agent was killed and five other people were injured on a helicopter film shoot today when a helicopter filming movie scenes crashed into a fort, police said.

A police spokesman identified the dead American as Cliff Carpenter, 24. He had no further details.

Burma intensifies crackdown

Student leaders arrested

BANGKOK, June 28, (AP): Burma's military government today arrested a top official of the main opposition party as part of an intensified crackdown on dissent, a party spokeswoman said.

Authorities seized Aung Lwin, a member of the nine-man executive committee of the National League for Democracy, said spokeswoman Ma Theingi. She was reached by telephone in Burma's capital of Rangoon.

She said authorities yesterday arrested three student leaders including Nyo Htun and Zaw Zaw Aung of the All Burma Federation of Student Unions. The federation was formed during last year's popular uprising against authoritarian rule.

Also arrested that day, she said, were a member of the People's Progressive Party and a member of another political party, the National Democratic Front.

Ma Theingi said more than 2,000 members of the National League for Democracy have been arrested since September, when Army chief Gen. Saw Maung took power and crushed street protests by shooting and jailing demonstrators.

Aung San Suu Kyi, general secretary of the league and the leading opposition figure, said today the authorities "are trying to tighten things up but it has been coming for a long time."

"They don't want us to have democracy," she said when reached by telephone in Rangoon.

"For the last few months they have been suppressing the democratic movement more and more."

A government spokesman told a news conference Friday that 195 people have been detained since March 13, when a new round of scattered anti-government protests began.

Last year, tens of thousands of people took to the streets demanding an end to a quarter of a century of one-party rule. Thousands were reportedly killed by security forces before and immediately after Gen. Saw Maung re-established control.

Aung San Suu Kyi said today that the official media for the first time last Friday mentioned her and her party by name in attacking the opposition.

Soviet mole killed himself

MOSCOW, June 28, (Reuters): KGB chief Vladimir Kryuchkov said today that Soviet agent Glenn Michael Souther was born in the United States and had committed suicide because of psychological problems.

The KGB chief said Souther gave himself the Russian name Mikhail Orlov. The name had been used in his obituary in the daily Krasnaya Zvezda yesterday, prompting speculation he was a Soviet-born infiltrator of US intelligence, where he had served before defecting.

"He was an American," Kryuchkov told foreign journalists during a break in proceedings at the Soviet Parliament, the Supreme Soviet. "It seems he was born in Indiana."

He said Souther, who was 32, had taken his own life, leaving a Russian wife and 18-month-old daughter, and attributed the suicide to his personal sensitivity.

"The motive was not political," Kryuchkov said. "He had long displayed a nervous state of mind. He was very gifted and easily hurt. We cannot blame anyone for his death."

He said Souther, who had been given the rank of major in the KGB, left a letter in which he expressed thanks to the Soviet Union for its recognition of his services.

"I must also say it was a great personal loss. I met him several times," the KGB chief added.

Souther, a former US intelligence analyst, disappeared in 1986 after being confronted by Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents on suspicion of spying. Moscow announced his defection in July last year.

Kryuchkov said he had been recruited by the KGB "several years" before his arrival in the Soviet Union. "We can be quite open about this," he said. "We have our spies, you have yours."

Souther joined the US Navy in 1957 and served with the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean from 1979 to 1982 when he was honourably discharged. He remained in the naval reserve until his defection and studied Russian at a naval base in Virginia.

In an interview with Soviet television last year, he said he had chosen to come to the Soviet Union after becoming disgusted with US behaviour towards other countries.

Kryuchkov said Souther's mother and other relatives had flown from the United States to attend the funeral at Moscow's Kuntsevo cemetery on Monday. They had since returned home.

Souther was buried in the military section of the cemetery in the capital's western outskirts, close to the grave of British master spy Kim Philby, a KGB general who died in May last year and was interred with full military honours.

Souther's obituary in Krasnaya Zvezda, signed by "colleagues in the State Security Committee (KGB)," identified him as Mikhail Yevgenyevich Orlov. His American name appeared only in brackets, suggesting he was a Russian.

It also implied he had died from natural causes rather than suicide by using the phrase "died suddenly," routinely applied in cases of heart attack or brain haemorrhage.

It said he had "a short but brilliant life which was totally dedicated to the struggle of removing the threat of nuclear war hanging over mankind."

Police converge on kidnap country

REGGIO CALABRIA, Italy, June 28, (Reuters): Police reinforcements were sent into a remote southern mountain range today to try to rescue kidnap victims, including the son of a woman dubbed "Mother Courage" for her efforts to free him.

Police sources in Reggio Calabria, on the toe of Italy, said the patrols were equipped with high-technology maps of suspected kidnapper hideouts drawn up using infra-red aerial photographs. The results of the operation in the Aspromonte mountains were not immediately available.

Yesterday, relatives of five hostages believed held in the area met Interior Minister Antonio Gava in Rome to demand more action. They said afterwards that they would withhold ransom payments to kid-

nappers.

Among the relatives was Angela Casella, who has been dubbed "Mother Courage" by the press. She toured the mountains for 10 days this month in an emotional appeal for the release of her 20-year-old son Cesare, kidnapped in the northern town of Pavia in January 1988.

Casella's car dealer husband has paid 1.5 billion lire (\$1 million) in ransom but the kidnappers want twice that amount. The family says it does not have the money.

Today's police swoop coincided with a meeting called in Reggio Calabria by anti-Mafia high commissioner Domenico Sica on how to fight kidnappers in the inaccessible Aspromonte range.



No respite

Children attack a rickshawpuller resting on his vehicle in an empty Dhaka street during a strike yesterday, which was called by opposition parties to

protest heavy taxes levied in the recently introduced fiscal 1989-90 Bangladesh national budget. (Reuters wirephoto)

Bomb kills four in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, June 20, (AP): Sinhalese extremists detonated a car bomb outside a council meeting in southern Sri Lanka today, killing four people and wounding 25 others, police said.

Police said the car bomb exploded in the southern city of Galle, killing a police constable and three hotel workers. The victims, including the injured, were walking past the empty car when it exploded.

The death toll was likely to rise since 10 people among the wounded were in critical condition, said a police official in Galle, 110 kilometres (70 miles) south of Colombo.

The official said the bomb was planted by members of the People's Liberation Front, a left-wing organisation that has instigated violent civil unrest

in a bid to topple the government.

The blast occurred outside the municipal council building where about 50 elected officials of the southern province were holding their weekly meeting.

The outer wall of the council building collapsed from the force of the blast and a nearby building was partially damaged.

In other violence, six men were killed by suspected Sinhalese extremists in Kaduwela, 15 kilometres (10 miles) east of Colombo, said military officials.

The officials said the bodies were found with stab and bullet wounds. The victims were known criminals with records ranging from larceny to drug trafficking, they said.

Seoul arrests MP

Demand for visit to North grows

SEOUL, June 28, (AP): The government's intelligence agency arrested an opposition lawmaker today for an illegal visit to communist North Korea.

Also today some 1,500 radical students battled riot troops to protest a government ban on participation in an international youth festival in the North.

The Agency for National Security Planning said lawmaker Suh Kyung-Won of the Party for Peace and Democracy was arrested for an unauthorised visit to North Korea and talks with its leader, Kim Il Sung.

Suh surrendered to the security agency Sunday night and underwent three days of interrogation, authorities said.

He visited the northern capital of Pyongyang on Aug 19-21 of last year after contacting North Korean agents in Frankfurt, West Germany and travelled to North Korea via Czechoslovakia, an official announcement said.

At Seoul's Hanyang University, about 1,500 radicals from schools in the capital and other cities fought riot police deployed outside to block students from joining rallies and a planned march Friday to the youth festival in North Korea.

Sporadic clashes occurred between masked students armed with steel bars, clubs and



Suh: visit

firebombs and the 3,500 riot police who formed a blockade around the campus.

Police replied with tear-gas, sometimes throwing back rocks hurled by students, but did not charge into the campuses.

The students were demanding that the government lift its ban and let them go to North Korea.

Police said about 100 students trying to enter the campus were arrested today, and dozens of policemen were slightly injured.

Lenin under attack

MOSCOW, June 28, (Agencies): Vladimir Ilyich Lenin, whose actions as founder of the Soviet state has been off-limits to official criticism even under glasnost, has been vehemently attacked by a government-run monthly magazine.

"Lenin — all victories of the party and the state are linked with the name of Lenin," wrote Vasily Grossman in a work published posthumously in the June issue of the Otkrytyy literary magazine. "But all cruelty committed in the country has become the tragic burden of Vladimir Ilyich."

Grossman, a Ukrainian-born writer who made the attack in his short novel, "Forever Flowing," explicitly charged that Soviet political terror and dictatorship were begun by Lenin and not by his successor, Josef Stalin, as Communist Party doctrine has maintained since 1956.

Exiled dissident writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn offered the same analysis in the 1970s but his works have yet to appear legally in the Soviet Union.

As the first in the Soviet Union to publish Grossman's short novel, the monthly implicitly questioned President Mikhail Gorbachev's often-stated view that the country needs only to shake off the totalitarian heritage of Stalinism and return to true Leninist ways to construct a democracy in which the liberty of each citizen is respected.

The Soviet Parliament today confirmed as first deputy chairman of the USSR council of ministers Lev Voronin, 61, and Yuri Maslyukov, 52, Soviet news agency, Tass, reported.

The Communist Party chief of Yerevan, capital of Soviet Armenia, has been dismissed for failing to end ethnic and nationalist unrest which has dogged the city for more than a year.

China recalls envoys

(Continued from Page 1)

A Western diplomat in Beijing said the ambassadors would meet July 7.

"We assume they're going to give them the government line, and tell them to go out and sell it. And stop your people from defecting," the diplomat said on condition of not being identified.

In Beijing, the Foreign Ministry had no immediate comment on the Kyoto report.

More than 20 Chinese diplomats have reportedly asked for political asylum following the June 3-4 military crackdown in Beijing that left hundreds and possibly thousands dead.

Britain said yesterday that three first secretaries at the Chinese embassy in London have asked for political asylum.

A senior Chinese UNESCO official who sympathised with pro-democracy protesters in Beijing has defected, sources at the UN cultural body and at the French Foreign Ministry said today.

They said Zhao Fusan disappeared immediately after a June 9 speech in Paris to UNESCO's 50-strong executive board, of which he is a permanent member. He defected soon afterwards.

A member of a Chinese delegation that came to the US after the Tiananmen attack says he eluded the group in New York and plans to ask for political asylum.

Chen Wenbing, 41, musical director of the China Welfare Fund for the Handicapped, said he decided to quit the Communist Party after witnessing killings of students and ordinary people in Beijing.

The Western diplomat noted that China recalled all its ambassadors during the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution, when the nation severed most contacts with the outside world.

China has been sharply criticised by many nations, particularly in the West, for the military attack on activists and the subsequent arrest of at least 1,800 pro-democracy demonstrators and protesters. At least 27 people have been executed.

The United States halted arms sales, military contacts and high-level visits. The European Economic Community urged similar steps by its 12 members, and joined the US in recommending that the World Bank postpone new loans to Beijing.

Japan, China's most important source of development aid, also has suspended talks on new loans to protest the harsh suppression of protesters.

China has accused the US of interfering in its internal affairs, but generally has tried to shrug off its growing diplomatic isolation by saying its open-door policy is unchanged.

Beijing had said it hopes foreign contacts will quickly return to normal.

Premier Li Peng, in a meeting with a Pakistani official last week, said that "in times of difficulty it is very clear who are true friends."

China's government-controlled media urged citizens today to rally behind a speech of senior leader Deng Xiaoping in which he praised the military for crushing the pro-democracy movement.

China's legislature, the National People's Congress, will convene a special session tomorrow to endorse the party line and to tighten regulations on public gatherings and demonstrations.

Deng contends the student

The great escape

The return

HONG KONG, June 28, (AP): Student leader Wu'er Kaixi, in a videotape made after fleeing China, has made a dramatic vow to continue the struggle for democracy and predicted the "wild beast" Communist leadership will soon fall.

"This kind of government doesn't have the strength to continue living," Wu'er said in the 18-minute videotape shown Wednesday to the Associated Press. "They are the people's enemies."

Wu'er escaped from China with his girlfriend, Liu Yan, despite a nation-wide manhunt in which his picture was posted in airports and train stations, reportedly through the Portuguese enclave Macao.

He was easily the most charismatic of the 21 student leaders accused by Communist authorities of "inciting" a "counter-revolutionary rebellion."

Wu'er said he and his girlfriend had been in the heart of the fighting raged along Changan street that runs into Tiananmen Square.

"I don't know how many martyrs' souls remain on Changan street, may they forever rest in peace."

"Those of us who remain alive, our lives no longer belong to ourselves," he said. "The lives of those classmates and countrymen who sacrificed themselves for democracy, for freedom and for our beautiful motherland have dissolved into our own."

He urged those who participated in the campaign for freedom to "forget our will and continue the great patriotic democratic movement until the end. ... If we don't get our act together, we won't be able to get moving and China will never advance."

Wu'er, who looked pale in the videotape, wore a white T-shirt with the name of his school, Beijing Normal University, on the front. He said the statement was made about two weeks after the Beijing bloodbath. He did not say where he was videotaped.

During the statement, Wu'er attacked China's conservative leaders — Deng Xiaoping, Premier Li Peng and President Yang Shangkun — whom he repeatedly referred to as "fascists" and at one point called them a "band of reactionary warlords."

He said the Chinese leaders will be judged by history. "How can I describe them? They are a small stumbling block on the road of history."

He predicted the Chinese leaders would remain in power six months to three years. "It won't be longer. This government will definitely fall."

Wu'er gave an account of his own ordeal, describing how he left Tiananmen Square the night of the military sweep, spitting up blood from an apparent ulcer.

He shared an ambulance with a dying classmate whose "stomach was still gurgling blood" from bullet wounds and a soldier shot by his own troops, apparently by mistake.

"There were innumerable tribulations and a narrow escape from death, but I'm still alive," he said.

He acknowledged that he and other pro-democracy protesters were naive to think the Communist government would tolerate their peaceful demonstrations.

"But we never thought ... the shamelessness and viciousness of those wild beasts would go to such an extent," he said.

Wu'er remains in hiding in the West, after travelling on to France or Britain according to reliable sources.

The videotape is the second of his statements released by activists in an underground network that has helped more than a dozen participants in the pro-democracy movement escape the Chinese crackdown.

"A black sun has appeared in the sky of my motherland and republic," Wu'er said in a handwritten letter dated June 15 and shown to the AP this week.

"But our life is young, stubborn and uncrushable. ... black sun, I'm going to shoot you down."

The Chinese government is ruthlessly pursuing those involved in organising what paramount leader Deng Xiaoping has called a counter-revolutionary rebellion. So far it has reported detaining at least four student leaders on a wanted list of 21.

"The people who come through Hong Kong do not stay here, because it is too close to China and too dangerous. Hong Kong is the place where these exiles come to first," one source said.

Last week a senior manager at Hong Kong commercial radio confirmed leading Chinese dissident Yan Jiaqi and his wife Gao Gao had been in the colony and were heading for the United States by way of France.

Yan, a leading social scientist, publicly supported the student movement in the days before the military massacre of hundreds, if not thousands, of people and the subsequent wave of arrests and repression.

Pravda, the official newspaper of the Soviet Communist Party today carried a front-page message of congratulations from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to newly installed Chinese Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin.

tion said it could not confirm unofficial reports that several hundred detainees had already been executed.

KUWAIT ... GULF

Zakat policy clear: Ajeel

No violations in accounts

THE deputy director of Zakat House Abdul Qader Al Ajeel has denied that Zakat House grants donations to people according to their sects, names of their families or due to any ulterior motives. He added that this is a false and baseless accusation.

The house also does not apply strict criteria in paying support and donations to needy persons, the official said. But he added that we investigate every application submitted to ensure that applicants deserve the donation. The house has a well-defined and pragmatic policy in providing donations, the official said.

He pointed out that the house submitted a draft law to oblige joint stock companies in the country to pay Zakat (alms) according to Islamic instructions. He added that the draft law will not be applied to public services.

Donations
Ajeel added that Zakat House receives donations and alms from a cross-section of donors in Kuwait and abroad. He denied that some donations received by the house from abroad are intended for certain political considerations.

"We receive donations from individuals and merchants out of Kuwait. People give us their alms

and donations because of the good reputation gained by the house in undertaking its work in and outside Kuwait.

The house carries out external and internal charity and investment projects according to Islamic sharia. The house's budget amounted to KD6 million in addition to KD4 million granted by the state annually, he said.

He added that the house concentrates on distribution of financial support to needy families inside Kuwait. Al Zakat money (alms) collected in Kuwait is spent over needy families in Kuwait according to instructions of Islam.

Expenditure outside Kuwait is derived from contributions submitted by citizens and not the Zakat money. These citizens stipulate disbursing funds to certain charity projects out of Kuwait, he said.

The house carries out several charity projects out of Kuwait such as building mosques, schools, and maintaining orphanages in many countries of the world, he said. The house has executed about 500 projects out of Kuwait. Most of these projects are mosques, schools and orphanage houses. We hand these projects to the Islamic organisations in these countries,

he said.

Ajeel pointed out that the house pays monthly support to more than 600 needy families in Kuwait beside incidental support to more than 5,000 families. The house also offers support to needy students as well as non-profitable loans to some needy families.

The house has also covered the costs of 40 persons who intend to perform Hajj this year. He called on the public not to grant alms to beggars at mosques or roads. He added that there are more than 25 charity societies and committees that offer donations and support to needy people in the country beside Zakat House.

There is no need for begging in Kuwait with the presence of these Zakat and charity committees and societies, he said. We have encountered many people who get donations from the house and at the same time have been arrested for begging, the official said.

Ajeel pointed out that Zakat House established a fund to support needy students who want to pursue their higher studies abroad. The fund is presently covering costs of 120 students of different nationalities studying in foreign universities and in Arab countries.

Kuwait, Hungary to sign agreement

BUDAPEST, June 28, (KUNA) Hungarian Foreign Minister Gyula Horn today expressed satisfaction over the progress and development of economic, cultural and political relations between Kuwait and Hungary.

The signing of an agreement with Kuwait to protect investments and cancel double taxation, will foster economic and trade relations, Horn told KUNA in an exclusive interview last night.

Lately in Budapest, an initial agreement was signed to

promote investments between the two countries.

Horn was speaking to KUNA on the sidelines of his visit along with Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock to the joint Austrian-Hungarian borders to "symbolically remove the Iron Curtain separating the two countries."

Asked on reports given by high ranking Hungarian figures concerning Hungary's investment to restore relations with Israel, Horn said that the decision will be taken by the Hungarian government at the end of this

year. The Hungarian official stressed that the decision will be purely Hungarian and in accordance with the sovereignty and benefit of his country.

Horn said that the decision to restore relations with Israel depends on the outcome of the recent negotiations conducted with Tel Aviv and the developments of the Israel stance toward the problems in the Middle East.

If the developments are positive, they will certainly help in restoring ties with Israel, Horn said.



CBK welcomes Science Club members

APART from meeting its financial commitments to the community, the Commercial Bank of Kuwait has been playing a prominent role in the society's social, cultural and educational activities. The visit of two groups of children from the Science Club to the bank's Data Processing Department (DPD) at the Sixth Ring Road on June 24 and 25 was a further illustration of the organisation's endeavour to encourage the younger generation's quest for knowledge.

On June 24 and 25, Kurien Varghese, Manager, Systems and Mohammed Kandari, Systems Engineer took the children on a general tour to various areas of the department where they were acquainted with manifold functions carried out by the DPD.

They watched with delight the functioning of teller terminals and operation of the Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) at the testing room. Basam Al Rajab, Software Engineer and Muntaha Al

Saif, Systems Engineer explained to the children banking automation processes. The children evinced keen interest in the subject. At the computer room they were told about the nature and mode of operation of the various computer machinery.

They visited Data Communication Room and Library where tapes, technical manuals and microfiche are kept. The children were also taken to generator locations which provide continuous flow of energy for computer operations. At Halon System, they watched rescue and safety operations in case of fire. At the maintenance room, they were shown the various equipment and machinery maintained there.

The science enthusiasts were also taken to DPD's Hardware Store and System Development Area where various computer programmes are evolved. They visited the stationary store and the tape vault where explanations were given to them on how to store the tapes without damage for several years.

Field training for more than 1100 commerce students

35 academic supervisors to follow-up

MORE than 1100 students from the Commercial Studies College are now continuing their summer training at 150 private and government authorities. The field training for summer started from June 10, 1989 and will last until July 25, 1989.

The head of the Field Training Office at the Commercial Studies

College, Adel Al Assal said that 35 academic supervisors from the college teaching staff are following up training and supervision operations at different training locations.

Students who are into summer training should have completed a minimum of 27 credit hours, and forty per cent of these hours

should be within the field of speciality.

He explained that weekly meetings are held with supervisors to follow the latest developments of the field training operation. Trainee evaluations are done twice, the first after three weeks from the beginning of training and the second at the

end. Trainees are asked to present two reports during the training period.

Training authorities fully cooperate with the college to provide trainees with the best training atmosphere possible. On the other hand, Assal pointed out that the college has completed a study concerning the

allocation of a comprehensive academic training course of 16 weeks duration for students during coming semesters.

This study will resolve most of the problems concerning students complaints from the shortness of summer training period and its timing during the summer season.



Pakistani Mango Festival

The Venezuelan Ambassador and Dean of the Diplomatic Corp, Rafael Osuna on Tuesday opened the Pakistani Mango Festival at the Meridian Hotel. Gulab Khas was one of the 22 succulent mango varieties shown at the festival.

The ambassadors of Indonesia, Greece, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and other diplomats, leading businessmen and officials attended.

The festival has been jointly organised by Hotel Meridian, Shama International Trading Co. Ltd., and PIA. Picture Shows Pakistan's Ambassador Zahid Saeed (right) with Osuna and other guests. (Photo by Javed Basra)

Heightened activity in overland transport

Fares moderate

OVERLAND transport companies have begun heightened activities due to the onset of the travel season and in view of the increase in the number of passengers travelling between Kuwait, Egypt and Jordan, according to a local daily who interviewed a number of officials.

Jamal Al Musalami, the general manager at one of the transport companies described transport fares in Kuwait as moderate. He said that this company charges 150 fils for each kilogram of baggage up to a total weight of 500 kgs, 135 fils over 500 kgs and 125 fils thereafter. These charges are applicable for baggage transported from Kuwait to Egypt.

Speaking of the transport of cars from Kuwait to Egypt, the official said that the charges depend on the value and size of the vehicle. A car of 3.5 metres in length costs KD175, half lorry KD220 and heavy vehicles KD300.

On transport charges between Kuwait and Jordan, Iraq and Syria and Lebanon, the official said that his company charges KD160 for cargo of each truck to Jordan, KD180 to Iraq and KD200 to Syria and Lebanon.

Fahmi Nimer, a manager of another transport company said that overland transport fares are cheap and within the reach of all. On compensation to be paid to missing luggage, he said that the company normally pays 50 per cent of the value of lost items. Evaluation of lost baggage claims is undertaken by the company, he added.

Radi Abdullah, a manager of another transport firm said that his company is willing to pick up luggage of customers from any place in the country. He added that at Egyptian ports, the company undertakes customs clearance formalities. It charges 300 fils for each kilo up to a total of 500 kgs and 200 fils over that weight.

Juvenile delinquency up during vacations

THE assistant undersecretary for social care at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour Dr Latifa Al Rujaib has said that juvenile delinquency is higher during holidays and the summer recess, due to the abundance of leisure time during this season.

She told a local daily that 65 per cent reported accidents took place during the holidays, and that the juvenile delinquency percentage often started to go up, as of the month of May. Rujaib added the number of reported accidents increased from 423 in April to 438 while similar increase were reported during June last year but the percentage stabilised during July and August.

She pointed out that the main reasons for juvenile delinquency was the absence of parental and school control during the summer holidays, particularly in the morning when the parents at work and children are exposed to the effects of bad company.

Rujaib added that most juvenile cases were recorded against students of the intermediate educational level which covered the ages of 10 to 14 and totalled 190 cases.

She said that other cases involved students of the secondary level who ranged in age between 14 to 18 years and totalled 153, while cases recorded against students at the elementary level were 18, which covered the ages from 10 downwards.

Statistics reveal that aggressive behaviour: fights, attacks and others were characteristic of juveniles between the ages of 14 to 18, who would also engage in auto-theft and robbery, while those under 14 were responsible for acts of vandalism, she said.

Delinquency factors varied considerably, as youngsters could resort to delinquent behaviour to attract attention of the adults, annoy them or protest lack of concern and determination to self-assertion, the official said.

She added that poverty or wealth could also be responsible for delinquency among children, which under all circumstances denotes a major problem within the family, as indications have shown that 90 per cent of juvenile delinquents were members of disrupted families.

She stressed the great influence of religious education as a major deterrent to delinquent patterns, and urged parents to allocate more time to their children whose responsibility must come first in all respects.

First driving school in Shuwaikh

300 learner drivers tested daily: Omer

KUWAIT'S General Traffic Department tests more than 300 learner drivers daily, the director of the Learners Department Colonel Yaqoub Al Omer has been quoted as saying.

In an interview with a local daily, the official said that many who do the test fail because they have been trained inadequately. This however will change once the driving schools are opened.

He clarified that the Interior Ministry represented by the General Traffic Department has no direct connection with the proposed driving schools, but the department will exercise enough control over these schools to ensure that learner drivers get efficiently trained.

Omer added that the said schools will be affiliated to the National Investment Company which has allocated KD5 million for this project. He further said that four different schools will be established in four governorates and the area of each school has been defined at 25,000 square metres.

NIC has concluded a contract with a consulting bureau to supervise the project and to provide it with the latest technology, Omer said. He added that the first driving school will be opened in Shuwaikh (near the traffic department) soon.

Speaking of the training

process, Omer said that each trainee will be subjected to at least 300 days of training by specialists. Every Thursday of each week will be reserved for testing the efficiency of learner drivers, the official said.

Omer pointed out that the General Traffic Department has set up a new testing system where applicants will have to undergo both theoretical and practical testing.

Meanwhile, the official pointed out that Kuwait's traffic law was among the best in the Arab countries because it stipulates severe penalties for misdemeanours and because the relevant authorities have the necessary power to impose these penalties which include revoking the licence.

He also added that most Gulf states had derived their traffic laws from Kuwait because of its suitability.

The department is planning to issue the necessary traffic guide in both Arabic and English, the official said and added that the new issue of the guide will contain information on mechanics and electricity.

He further said that the use of seat belts should be made compulsory since it has been proved that it is efficient enough to prevent injuries in case of an accident.

BAHRAIN DIGEST

Great strides ahead for Bahraini women

BAHRAINI women have been playing a key role in the overall development of their country in all spheres for a number of years now, thanks to education, a growing economy, rapid modernisation and foresightedness of the island's leaders to encourage national women to participate in the building of the nation.

Bahraini women rank among the first in the region to participate in hitherto traditional male domains or areas of employment. Today national women are firmly ensconced in such top professions as medicine, banking, law and commerce and in the last three years journalism. In specialised fields there is a Bahraini woman marine biologist. The number of such ambitious, talented and educated women is increasing rapidly. The achievement of these enterprising women is more remarkable and praiseworthy considering that most of them manage to happily combine a successful career and family. In recent times national women have been seen to delay their marriage for a while in general, so as to enable them to fulfill their respective personal and professional goals.

Positive

Over the past decade higher education has undoubtedly been the single most important factor in gaining Bahraini women an influential and positive place in society. The number of female students attending secondary schools, colleges and universities both at home and abroad has increased dramatically during the eighties.

According to available statistics during the 85/86 academic year the number of female students outnumbered males by five-fold in the enrollment at the University College of Arts, Science and Education. Out of a total of 756 students enrolled, 638 were women. The number of female graduates of the college stood at 159 compared to 45 males during the same period. A total of 17 females graduated in higher education in the country during 1985/86 compared to 12 men. In the field of adult education the number of females also outnumbered males by 564 to 254. At the prestigious college of medicine more women students were also found to have enrolled during this period with 22 compared to 17 males.

In recent years the number of national women joining the job market has increased rapidly, thanks to higher education and training programmes and government's policy of allocating increasing positions to local women, particularly in the civil service. In 1987 the total number of Bahraini women in the workforce increased to 18,700 from 13,458 in 1986. In the private sector too, national women are increasingly replacing expatriates in jobs ranging from secretarial posts to sales. Thanks to a liberal educational system most Bahraini women speak and understand English, thereby gaining employment in international firms as well in greater number.

Values

Local women are no longer content to just finish school, get married and raise children, but have set their sights on a much higher place in terms of both personal and professional goals. Traditional and conservative values notwithstanding local married women are fortunate in that most of their husbands have no objection in their wives taking up gainful employment and in some cases earning higher income than their men. Women are also seen to be more responsible and committed to their work than men in general according to leading sociologists here.

With a higher standard of education, greater employment prospects, chances of generous income, Bahraini women are beginning to create a niche for themselves by adopting an increasingly modern and independent approach to life. Without losing their basic Arab and Islamic upbringing and values, these women have incorporated both traditional and modern values perfectly in keeping with the times. There have been however, considerable changes in their way of life, such as in fashion and in driving a car. The car has contributed to a great extent to a local woman's mode of life. For one thing it has given her a sense of mobility and independence without having to constantly depend on her husband for day to day needs. In the field of fashion a local girl has taken to foreign design, particularly the big fashion houses of the West, in a big way without losing her modesty and identity.

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Migrant

whole society and Kuwait," he said.

"The problem of population has been created because of an influx of migrants. Kuwait needs a selective immigration policy more than any other country," he said.

The issue of permanent residence and naturalisation have been widely discussed. But Hussein does not see any radical change in the policy.

"We decided a long time ago that the subject of naturalisation will be taken seriously. People have to understand the peculiar situation of Kuwait; its population and location. It is treated very carefully. I don't see any radical change (in this policy) in the foreseeable future," he said.

Some planners have suggested that naturalisation could balance the population. "We want Kuwaitis to increase. Will (those given nationality) become Kuwaitis the next day?" Hussein asks.

The policy is to go slow on the matter and consider only certain people who have assimilated completely, like the foreign wives of Kuwaitis, and children of Kuwaiti mothers.

"A limited number, and that's that," he said.

But balancing the population is the top priority.

The 1985 census estimated population growth at a rate of 3.8 per cent for Kuwaitis and 5.1 per cent for non-Kuwaitis.

However, there was a marked reversal in a 1988 manpower survey conducted by the Planning Ministry, which found that non-Kuwaitis grew at a rate of 1.8 per cent and Kuwaitis at 3.4 per cent. Now, data gathered by the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) reveals that Kuwaitis form only 28 per cent of the total population.

Hussein explained that the number of Kuwaitis reduced because "some unproven nationalities and (non-Kuwaiti) relatives of Kuwaitis were included in the 1985 census. Another reason, he said, was because "the non-Kuwaiti population is settling in Kuwait, and their natural increase (birth rate) is high."

Despite stringent rules, immigration to Kuwait never really stopped," he said, citing the growing population of domestic workers whose numbers fluctuate between 170,000 and 200,000.

"We are a small population; any addition upsets the present

balance," he said.

He said the government spends KD1,500 per year on each non-Kuwaiti resident through subsidies on health, education, food and electricity costs.

It is a great burden on the Kuwaiti society, he said.

"The society is paying a rare cost of social change for its decades of open door immigration policy."

Sociologists and scholars have repeatedly voiced concern over the adverse role played by the expatriates in changing the social fabric of society. The influence of domestic workers on impressionable minds is one example; maintenance of security is another vital factor.

Planners are looking at the social changes needed for a prudent policy. Generally, they seem to be looking forward.

Social planning is vital, stresses Hussein.

He explains: "We want to revive motivation. In the pre-oil days we worked hard and ventured out of Kuwait to India and Basra and created our own enterprises and communication networks. After oil, it was natural for people to relax, except that our relaxation was may be too much."

"The increase in the oil prices in the 1970s and 1980s gave us the illusion that this was a permanent thing, and we will accumulate a part of the wealth; it gave us the belief that we don't really need to work. Now we have to change that."

"The young Kuwaitis are realising that although the wealth is there, it is not permanent; it is permanent in the physical sense (oil reserves) but it's not guaranteed that it is saleable and usable; they have to create their own activity besides (oil)," he said.

This calls for changing attitude. Planners admit this can't be done overnight but insist urgent changes are needed and call for gradual, step-by-step measures to reduce the government's share in expenditure; in other words, withdraw subsidies.

"We are afraid that Kuwaiti society is becoming a 100 per cent consumer society; sometimes it is really not beneficial to the economy to go on giving subsidies," he said.

Kuwait's government heavily subsidises food, electricity, health and education, "built into the system through the behaviour of the last 30 years."

Planners are not seeking instant changes but suggest a "gradual

(Continued from Page 1)

introduction" of health fees, perhaps a hike in electricity charges and other measures are planned. The recently imposed KD2 airport tax is one example, which is expected to net KD1.5 million annually.

He said: "Let me dispel any belief that the Higher Planning Council or the government is planning to increase the revenue (by subsidy cut backs)."

"The revenue will increase, indirectly; but the idea is to change behaviour and attitudes — this is our main objective. Another aim is to decrease capital expenditure on future long-term projects."

Electricity charges are the lowest in the world at 2 fils per kw. If the government continues to subsidise electricity, Hussein says, Kuwait would have to add a power station with the capacity of 1,000 megawatt every five years, at a cost of KD5 million, to meet growing needs.

"The aim is to decrease the expense of such projects rather than increase revenue," he explained.

One main objective of the present five-year plan is to expand the role of the private sector. More emphasis would be given in the next five-year plan.

"In the pre-oil era, the public sector's role was minimal; after oil, (this has) nearly shifted. Now we need to adopt a middle-road," he said.

The objectives seem to rejuvenate the economic sector and motivate Kuwaitis to play a bigger role. If companies increase productivity, profitability and enhance Kuwaiti participation, they would get subsidies.

Hussein calls such subsidies "tool to encourage the private sector."

The ambitious strategy is to set up an export-oriented private sector with a high-tech industrial sector to "produce anything they can in a competitive market."

Commenting on the obstacles to planning, Hussein said "the present apparatus in the government is not yet fully developed for planning, which has to be corrected."

He called for "more effort to train people, government employees" so that they come to think of planning "as an integral part of government work."

He also said there is a shortage of data. "We still need more information, which has to be gathered."

All imported animals checked for infections

One case of New Castle found

By Ali Al Masaudi

THE director of the Animal Health Department at the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources Dr Sultan Ahmad Al Sultan has said that serious infectious diseases could be transmitted to humans from animals.

He said that for this reason the department carefully examines all sheep and other animals imported into the country for

human consumption, while inoculins are administered to these animals during September to protect them from well-known diseases such as brucellosis, and New Castle.

He pointed out that samples would be sent to an established international agency in Britain for confirmation of absence of infectious disease.

Sultan stressed the element of awareness among animal keepers to be able to quarantine

animals, if infected, and prevent the disease from spreading to healthy ones. No sheep or cows must be sold under such circumstances to avoid the spread of infection, and people seem to be appreciative and responsive to such measures based on past experience.

Sultan announced that one case of the New Castle disease, transferred by parrots has been recently discovered in Kuwait. He added that Kuwait always

adopts precautionary measures to face diseases and monitors news about diseases in other countries.

Sheep

Asked about the health conditions of Australian sheep, from where Kuwait imports the bulk of its meat requirements, Sultan said that Australia is known to be free from any dangerous disease. Moreover, all ship imports from Australia are accompanied with verified health certificates. He

added that the health conditions of the sheep are covered by the health certificates he added that the health conditions of the sheep are covered by the health certificates he added that the health conditions of the sheep are covered by the health certificates

The 'liquidation' game

Innovative ploy to obtain cash

By Khaled Ahmad

AUTHORISED financial sources in the country have warned of the dangerous consequences that could result from a new phenomenon in the local market, known as "liquidation".

Sources said that the new phenomenon is now widespread, particularly since the past two years and was mainly motivated and supported by the spread of credit sales through installments for almost every commodity in Kuwait. They warned that the cars market, where this phenomenon mostly exists, will be the most affected.

The new trend of "liquidation" started in Kuwait in the early 80s. It involves businessmen and other individuals needing cash. These people have found that the easiest way of securing the amount of cash they require is through buying commodities, mostly cars on installments and then reselling them for cash. Many new people enter this game daily, the sources said.

Other types include financial loans from consumer commodities financing establishments, but at a high cost.

Sources added that the new

dealings were encouraged by the addition to the Traffic Law in 1980, allowing installment buyers of cars to get the cars registered in their names and not in the name of the company.

The car market is the most popular market in Kuwait and involves most installment dealings. This helps aggravate the problem, the sources warned.

They also attributed the spread of the new phenomenon to the abolishing of the comprehensive insurance pre-condition as a requirement to sell cars on installments. Comprehensive insurance necessitated that car buyers must consult the agency that sold the car before being able to resell in the market. This was further enhanced when a major finance company cancelled the comprehensive insurance pre-requisite because it was illegal in Islam and after that the same company entered the car installment market thus providing loans in an indirect way.

The increase in competition among car agencies, after the price hike that started three years ago, also encouraged these agencies to abolish comprehensive insurance requirements on cars sold on installments. Besides, the used cars market flourished, mainly because not too many

people have the capacity to buy new cars.

Commenting on the issue of reselling commodities bought on installments, a legal source said that the problem here is that people who sell do not fully own the commodity, as they obtain them on installments. He said that these acts totally violate Kuwaiti laws. He added that the law permits the seller to ask the buyer to pay all the remaining installments if he sells the commodity without the seller's permission. The legal source warned that the spread of this phenomenon could lead to "unfounded deceptive sales" and could also lead to consumers shouldering financial burdens that exceed their actual capabilities. He did not rule out the creation of "imaginary" offices to facilitate such type of deals. The source warned that the new phenomenon may lead to a great deal of complications in the country's trust market besides causing problems between buyers and agents.

Financial sources called for speedy action to solve this Manakb-like problem to save consumer trust. They demanded strict application of the law to ban reselling of commodities particularly cars bought on credit before all installments are paid.



PIC agreement with Carbide

PETROCHEMICALS Industries Company (PIC) signed an agreement with the US Union Carbide Corporation for the licence and basic engineering for the production of polypropylene.

PIC chairman and managing director, Abdul Baqi Al Nouri and Union Carbide Deputy Chairman and General Manager, F.D. Rayan signed the agreement. Supplementary agreements for marketing assistance and supplying of catalysts, were also signed.

Nouri expressed happiness over the agreement and said that it allows the company to enter the field of manufacturing basic plastic materials. The project in the first of its kind in Kuwait and adds to the success of 25 years of the company in manufacturing fertilizers, salt, chlorine, detergents and others. He added that the project of polypropylene will be set up in Shuaiba Industrial Area and its annual production capacity will be 180,000 tons. Pictured here is the signing ceremony.

100 per cent pass at New Indian School

THE New Indian School produced excellent results in the Secondary Examination of the Central Board of Secondary Education, New Delhi, with 108 students out of 143 securing first divisions. There were no failures. 42 students scored an aggregate of over 75 per cent marks, out of whom 25 aggregated over 80 per cent.

A total of 261 distinctions were secured in the individual subjects.

Leo Simpson topped the batch with 89 per cent, securing 100 per cent in mathematics. Abhijit Majumdar was second with 88 per cent.

The toppers in individual subjects were: English 90, Peter Castellino. Mathematics 100, Leo Simpson. Science 95, Rajesh John. French 88 Jaffer Ismail and Khaled Ashfaq. Social Science 85, Leo Simpson and Rajesh John.

The following ten students distinguished themselves by scoring an aggregate of over 85 per cent: Leo Simpson, Abhijit Majumdar, Rajesh John, Pawan Mehra, Peter Castellino, Sanjit Roy, Pradeep Nair, Puneet Anand, Anil Joseph, Arun Mohanan.

Economic

banks' holdings of public debt instruments.

In addition, the banks' achieved improved profit levels in 1988, and this development was positively reflected in their dividends for 1988, where dividend rates ranged between 8 per cent and 35 per cent while the rate of three banks ranged between 12 per cent and 14 per cent.

In general, these distributions were better than those of 1987.

Answering to a question how the government tackled the debtors' problem, the governor said: "I would like to make it clear that the difficult debts problem has been tackled through the issue of the Difficult Credits Settlement Programme which included a series of regulations and measures for dealing with the problem in a way that resulted in containing and limiting its negative effects on the debtors, banks and the economy in general. Therefore, the ideas and views under discussion today, certain to measures for improving the effectiveness of the Difficult Credits Settlement Programme, within a new stage in the application of the programme."

Sheikh Salem added: "The views and ideas in this respect, certain to allowing the debtors who signed and authenticated their settlements to trade in their assets held as collateral with the banks according to rules and regulations, which guarantee the banks' rights (as creditors) in

these assets, and in a way that doesn't restrict the debtors, and allow them to improve the value of their assets and to trade them in a way that achieves profits for both banks and customers."

The Central Bank of Kuwait will instruct the banks to take the necessary measures in this regard. We consider this measure as an entrance for activating the economic situation in the country. I would like to assert that taking this step is merely to improve and develop the effectiveness of the programme without representing any change or adjustment in the programme, whether in its form or subject," he added.

The governor said: "As I mentioned above, the Central Bank of Kuwait, in its capacity as the party supervising the implementation of the Difficult Credit Settlements Programme, has at its disposal various indicators that would enable us to suggest possible measures for improving the effectiveness of the programme, while taking into consideration the level of economic activity. As I have mentioned, allowing debtors to trade their assets that are held as collateral is one possible approach."

The CBK, as an advisor to the government, usually proposes policies based on analysis of comprehensive data available to us on the performance of the financial sector and various other economic sectors. Hence, the CBK works to keep its monetary

(Continued from Page 1)

policy co-ordinated with the fiscal policy. In this context, I would like to note the Central Bank's efforts to achieve monetary stability through the regulation of liquidity levels and taking into consideration the impact of its interest rates policy on the overall economic situation," he said.

When asked about the government's move to purchase these difficult loans, the governor said such measures are not being seriously considered, and "I see no reason for the government to purchase the difficult debts. If the aim is to enhance the banks' performance by providing them with cash flows (through debt purchase), I believe this has already been achieved. Under the Settlement Programme, and as clearly stipulated, the government has guaranteed the financial soundness of banks through guarantees of the shareholders equity as of the end of 1985, and the safety of depositors rights."

In addition, the programme has guaranteed the banks' ability to distribute reasonable dividends. As long as the government guarantees the soundness of the banks against the negative side-effects of the debt problem, there is no need for the government to purchase these debts. I believe the best method in all circumstances is for the banks to continuously monitor these debts, as stipulated in the programme," Sheikh Salem added.

Saudis donate Quran

QUALA LUMPUR, June 28. (KUNA): The Saudi Arabian government yesterday donated 5,000 copies of the Holy Quran to the Malaysian armed forces.

They were presented to Chief of Defence Forces Gen. Hashim Ali by Saudi Ambassador Fouad Abdul Jameel Al Khateeb at a brief ceremony at the Defence Ministry.

A ministry spokesman said the

ambassador presented the copies of the Quran on behalf of Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz, who is Saudi Arabia's second deputy prime minister and defence minister.

The spokesman said the copies of the Quran would be distributed to various units of the three services of the armed forces, including those serving under the United Nations banner along the Iran-Iraq border and Namibia.

Sadu show

DOHA, June 28. (GNA): A symposium on the development of popular handicrafts in the GCC member states would be held here on October 2 to 5 in co-operation with the Kuwaiti Sadu House, the Arab Gulf Popular Heritage Centre and the Organisation of Gulf Industrial Consultations.

The symposium will discuss the existing situation of the popular handicrafts in the Gulf and ways to develop them and boost their economic feasibility.

Saudis improve transportation for pilgrims in Makkah

4AKKAH, June 28. (QNA): Studies and research are underway to improve means of transportation for Muslim pilgrims in the holy city of Makkah. The Saudi Awqaf and Haj Minister, Abdul Wahab Abdul Vase, said.

New transportation means like underground trams with microwave telecommunications, will be used for the pilgrims. The minister said that hundreds of housing projects are under construction to the area east of the Grand Mosque. These housing

projects will provide accommodation for thousands of pilgrims and will solve the accommodation problem. He added that new pilgrim cities will be constructed in Makkah and Madina to accommodate low income pilgrims.

Wase added that a railway project linking Makkah city with the surrounding holy sites used by pilgrims is under serious consideration by officials. Studies on the project are now concentrated on the best way to implement the project. He said that

the Ministry of Haj and Awqaf sponsors all research work and studies for the pilgrimage sites and co-ordinates in this aspect with the Haj Research Centre and other Saudi specialised universities. He said that all projects concerning the holy shrines are discussed by the Higher Haj Committee, chaired by the Interior Minister, Prince Nayef Bin Abdul Aziz. The Higher Haj Committee discuss all the ideas and proposals and issues the necessary decisions.

He stressed that the government of Saudi Arabia, under direct instructions of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Bin Abdulaziz, does not spare any efforts in carrying out projects that are necessary to facilitate pilgrimage. He added that Saudi Arabia also provides Muslim pilgrims with many important facilities including the cold water factory, which is a gift from King Fahd. Mosques are being looked after and expanded to accommodate more pilgrims, he said.



'From the window' — 1989

Kuwaiti artist goes solo in Switzerland

KUWAITI artist and author Thuraya Al Bakhamsi will hold her first solo-exhibition from July 13 in Switzerland.

An award-winning artist, she has held several exhibitions in such countries as Zaire, Senegal, Moscow and the GCC countries. However, this will be Thuraya's first show in Switzerland, and a rare exhibition by an Arab artist.

Thuraya, who studied fine arts in Cairo and Moscow, specialises in graphic art and printing on silk and ceramics. She also applies the technique of engraving, using acrylic and ink.

A painter with an eye for the



Thuraya Al Bakhamsi

offbeat, she is a keen admirer of portraiture and the human form. For her, the human figure is the springboard of her artistic expression. In her paintings, she often depicts Arab and Oriental women in traditional dress, but with a modern twist. Her subjects are often women in traditional dress, but with a modern twist. Her subjects are often women in traditional dress, but with a modern twist.

Thuraya's work is a blend of traditional and modern art. She has been exhibiting her work in various international art exhibitions. Her work is a blend of traditional and modern art. She has been exhibiting her work in various international art exhibitions.

Thuraya's work is a blend of traditional and modern art. She has been exhibiting her work in various international art exhibitions. Her work is a blend of traditional and modern art. She has been exhibiting her work in various international art exhibitions.

In Kuwait, she has been promoting the art of the woman. She has been exhibiting her work in various international art exhibitions. Her work is a blend of traditional and modern art. She has been exhibiting her work in various international art exhibitions.

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

KNOWLEDGE comes, but wisdom lingers — Lord Alfred Tennyson, English poet (1809-1892).

Communists haunted by past

Hungarians shocked, ashamed

By David Lewis

"COMMUNISTS who can find one new member for the party are excused dues for a year," runs a popular joke circulating in the Hungarian capital.

"Find two, they can leave the party. Find three, they can get signed certificates that they never belonged to the party."

The joke touches a sore nerve in the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party (HSWP), the Communist Party which but for a few days during the 1956 uprising has ruled alone since 1948.

The party sought last weekend to resolve a leadership and policy crisis by appointing former Social Democrat Rezső Nyer as party leader at the head of a new four-man presidium. He took the leadership from General Secretary Karoly Grosz.

As the country approaches its first multi-party elections since 1947 — they are due by mid-1990 — the HSWP is losing members fast.

Doubt

Diplomats expressed doubts about whether the creation of a four-member leadership could paper over deep cracks within the party over the pace and even desirability of reform.

On one wing of the party are traditionalists who wonder what has happened to socialism when Hungary is reintroducing a stock market, boosting the private economy and creating unemployment.

On the other wing are the radical reform Communists who forced the effective demotion of Grosz. They believed he was putting the brakes on the very reforms he himself unleashed only 13 months ago.

New openness about murky corners of the party's past — including admissions that hanged 1956 premier Imre Nagy was the victim of a show trial — has shocked and shamed many.

"Many people feel they have to walk with their heads bowed because they are members of the HSWP," top journalist Endre Acsel told Grosz during a television interview last month.

At the end of March the party cut its fees by 20 per cent after membership had fallen by 100,000 to 780,000 in the previous 18 months, but the move failed to stop the rot.

The party's press office declined to give exact current figures, but senior party official Istvan Degen says membership is now between 720,000 and 750,000 in a country with a population of 10.5 million.

"It has not stopped falling yet and will not stop for some time," Degen said.

The important Budapest Party Organisation admitted recently its own membership had dropped by 17 per cent to 180,000 in the past 10 months alone.

Part of the fall comes as new political organisations emerge in the more liberal political climate to join old parties which have surfaced after being suppressed 40 years ago.

But much is due to deep disillusion and confusion as the country struggles with economic problems and deals with many hitherto sacred tenets of communism, including egalitarianism, full employment and the primacy of public ownership.

An opinion poll conducted in April found that trust in the party had slumped to 24 per cent from 66 per cent in 1985.

It is at such a time that a group known as Reform Circles has become a kind of reform party and pressure body within the party.

Admit

Champion of the circles, though he is careful not to admit he is their leader for fear of breaching party rules banning factionalism, is Imre Pozsgay — nominated on Saturday as the party candidate for a planned new post of president of the republic.

In a lengthy interview with the West German weekly Die Zeit, Pozsgay said this month that Hungary needed Western-style political techniques, Western-style institutions and the values of bourgeois democracy.

"In Hungary a... full change of model is under way," he said. "We are starting again at zero. It is a new construction, not a reconstruction."

Before creation of the new presidium — consisting of Nyer, Grosz, Pozsgay and prime minister Miklós Nemeth — demands from Pozsgay drew complaints from Grosz of "petty bourgeois elements" casting away traditional values.

But he was forced to give way to the Pozsgay line on a whole list of issues and on Monday Nyer said the new leadership wanted to give the same priority to "bourgeois" concepts of freedom as to socialist values.

Csaba Tabajdi, a deputy department head in the party's apparatus, told the Italian daily L'Unita this month that Grosz lacked sufficient credibility for a party leader and should leave at a special party congress due in October.

Reform

Tabajdi said a reform core leadership including Pozsgay, Foreign Minister Gyula Horn and Speaker of parliament Matyas Szuros should be given the task of renewing the party on the basis of Eurocommunist and social democratic values.

Saying politicians who had lost credibility should take the consequences, Szuros made clear he felt Grosz should go before the autumn congress.

Speaking to Western journalists before the weekend changes, he said the party must not run the risk of a landslide electoral defeat such as that suffered by the Communist Party in Poland.

"Today in Hungary a popular party leader means as much as a good programme, if not more," he said.

Whether Grosz's demotion will satisfy the radical reformers remains to be seen.

A senior party official said privately after the shake-up: "Grosz has lost outside the party, but Pozsgay has not yet won inside the party."

(Reuters — Budapest)

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1672 — France's King Louis XIV rejects Dutch terms for peace.
- 1848 — Austria's archduke John is elected Regent of Reich, replacing German Confederation.
- 1880 — France takes control of South Pacific island of Tahiti.
- 1884 — Expedition under Major Marchand leaves France to advance on Fashoda and claim Sudan.
- 1939 — First commercial plane flight from United States to Europe is completed as Dixie Clipper lands at Lisbon, Portugal.
- 1943 — US forces land at New Guinea in Pacific World War II.
- 1946 — British arrest more than 2,700 Jews in Palestine in attempt to stamp out alleged terrorism.
- 1949 — South Africa begins its apartheid programme.
- 1963 — Dispute between Soviet Union and China worsens as Soviets demand recall of three officials at Chinese embassy in Moscow.
- 1965 — US paratroops take their first offensive action in South Vietnam, attacking communist stronghold 30 kilometres north-east of Saigon.
- 1966 — Hanoi, North Vietnam's capital, and Haiphong, its principal port, are bombed by US for first time in Vietnam war.
- 1967 — Israel defies international protests and unites divided city of Jerusalem for first time in two decades, following victory in six-day war.
- 1974 — Landslide kills more than 250 people 160 kilometres east of Bogotá, Colombia.
- 1988 — Israeli troops shoot and wound two Palestinians in occupied West Bank.

Dispute likely to de-stabilize Balkan region

Religion at the heart of Turkey-Bulgaria feud

By John Holland



An ethnic Turk crossing the Bulgarian border at Kapikule waits in front of what he brought from Bulgaria as his grandchild sits among the luggage and sacks piled over each other. (Reuters wirephoto)

AN exodus by tens of thousands of Bulgarian ethnic Turks fleeing government religious assimilation policies has chilled Bulgarian-Turkish relations, angered Muslims, and left the Christian majority bewildered.

The disputes are likely to further destabilise the Balkan region which is also witnessing minority rights violations of ethnic Hungarians in Romania and ethnic Albanians in the Yugoslavian province of Kosovo.

The exodus is not a new phenomenon in Bulgaria. Over the past three decades, large groups of ethnic Turks have also been talk to leave or been granted permission to do so, culminating in the departure of 130,000 people in the late 1970s.

The 70,000 recent emigrants and another 250,000 who have applied for exit visas are motivated primarily by their anger at enforced name changes built into the assimilation policy implemented five years ago. The policy is aimed at eradicating the practice of Islam in Bulgaria.

"We wouldn't leave if they'd let us keep our names," said Ahmed H., a textile worker from the city of Sumen who has applied for permission to leave.

Practically all Turkish names and customs have been banned as part of the drive to make the estimated 1.3 million ethnic Turks an integrated part of this country of nine million.

Harassment

Minorities report harassment from local authorities to stop them from going to the mosque and say they are fined for holding Muslim wedding and funeral ceremonies, or practising the rite of circumcision. Tombstones with Muslim names were often either removed or whitewashed.

More than 30 people were killed and hundreds more injured last month in clashes between police and Muslim demonstrators throughout eastern and southern Bulgaria. Tanks were used to enforce order, curfews imposed and even martial law was declared in many ethnic Turkish strongholds.

The village of Daskova, a northeastern Bulgarian community of about 2,000, bore witness to those events.

With a population evenly divided between Christians and Muslims, it lies in the heart of the largest region of minority concentration in Bulgaria.

About 25 per cent of the Muslim population has already left. More say they will go once they receive their exit visas.

Baskotina's orthodox Christians say that apart from religious matters they get along well with their Muslim neighbours.

"We don't really understand it," said long-time resident Anna Khatava. "We're our Muslim neighbours that as Bulgarians, then it's not clear that life is much worse in Turkey, but we have to understand and respect their religious freedom. It is a sad situation."

More readily apparent is the lack of understanding at the government level. The Turkish government in Ankara recently accused the Bulgarians of committing cultural and religious "genocide" against its Turkish minority.

Denied

Sofia fiercely denied the allegations, countering that last month's demonstrations were "provoked by pan-Turkish imperialists." In a nationally televised news conference the government denied that anyone was being deported or pressured to leave.

"This is not a question of religion," said Bulgarian Deputy Foreign Minister Ivan Ganev. "We have no problem with respect to the Islamic religion. It is pan-Turkism which is dangerous."

The perceived threat has led to restrictions on Turkish diplomats making it difficult, or in some cases impossible, for them to travel to meet with the ethnic minority.

Demonstrators in Istanbul, Turkey, last weekend criticised Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev for not pressuring Bulgaria to change its policy.

Bulgarian officials say the issue likely was raised recently when Gorbachev met with Bulgarian leader Todor Zhivkov in Moscow.

The Soviet Ambassador to Turkey also has been shutting between Sofia, Ankara and Moscow trying to encourage direct talks on the issue.

But the exodus continues.

At the border town of Kapitan Andreevo, Bulgaria, 2,000 people sat in their cars, slept under trees, and waited for several days in withering heat to clear customs.

Their chairs, tables and other possessions lay in great heaps, waiting to be taken into Turkey.

The Bulgarians claim the Turks are deliberately slowing down border formalities, and say that Turkish officials are destroying Bulgarian passports across the border.

Several Turkish newspapers have alleged that Bulgarian doctors were administering sterility drugs to departing ethnic Turks. A Bulgarian Foreign Ministry spokesman described these claims as "monstrous."

Beyond these accusations, border officials appear to be correct in saying that ethnic Turks leaving in 1989 are not as sure of their decision as those who left 10 years ago.

Problems for Iceland women's party

'Little flowers' with little ideas

By Edith M. Lederer

ICELAND'S women-only party complains it's being treated like "little flowers" with little ideas. But a rival woman lawmaker says the feminists are not taking politics seriously and are degrading parliament.

Two years ago, the Women's List, the world's first all-female party, captured a surprisingly six seats in the 63-member Althing, or parliament. For a while, it looked like a potential power-broker.

But today, Women's List lawmaker Thorhildur Thorgeirsdottir says Iceland's male-dominated society — and especially its media — have formed "a very great coalition to silence us."

Opponents, male and female, say the Women's List won't be taken seriously unless it plays politics Icelandic-style — which the group refuses to do, saying it means surrender to a system designed and run by men.

The Kvinnulist, Icelandic for Women's List, is radical, anti-nuclear and opposes Iceland's membership in NATO.

This puts it outside the centrist political mainstream, as does its dogged insistence on being non-establishment. It has no hierarchy or leadership, operates by consensus, rotates members in and out of parliament and has an eight-year limit on being a lawmaker.

The Women's List sees these policies as strengths. Political rivals and Western diplomats say they are weaknesses.

"Hierarchy is very much a male thing. Women try to run their homes without a hierarchy, and we see this country as one large family," said Sigridur Duna Kristmundsdottir, a Kvinnulist founder who served four years in parliament.

"We are very concerned about not having power accumulate in a few hands," she said.

Thorgeirsdottir added: "We made it clear in the election that when you vote for our list, you vote for ideas, not for people. But, of course, that goes against all the rules. It's a threat to the system."

Opponents counter that seasoned, recognised leaders are needed if the Women's List wants to share power in a coalition, the traditional style of government in this North Atlantic island nation of 250,000 people.

Gudrun Helgadóttir, the first woman president of the Althing, the world's oldest parliament, said rotating members was absurd.

"Parliament is not meant to be some sort of schooling system," she complained. "I think it degrades the parliament."

Helgadóttir, a member of the left-wing People's Alliance which belongs to the current three-party centre-left coalition, said the need for consensus keeps the Women's List out of government.

"Such a movement can never be homogeneous enough to take political stands," she said.

But Kristmundsdottir said the Women's List has stayed out of coalitions because other parties would not meet its minimum demands.

"I would be happy if we have 15-16 per cent of the vote in the next election, which would give us nine or 10 MPs and make us seriously consider entering a coalition group," she said.

Iceland gave women the vote before other European countries, and since 1980 it has had a woman president, Vigdís Finnbogadóttir.

The Women's List was founded in

1981 by a dozen women who saw the salary gap between men and women widening despite a 1976 equal rights law.

It won three Althing seats in the election of 1985, a year in which Icelandic women celebrated the United Nations Decade of the Woman with a one-day strike that paralysed the country.

It won 10.8 per cent of the vote in the 1987 election, doubling its seats. A year later it had 28.4 per cent in an opinion poll.

That fell to 12.8 per cent in a poll last April, but even opponents concede that the Women's List is a fascinating phenomenon that has inspired women elsewhere.

"This is not supposed to be an Icelandic phenomenon," Kristmundsdottir said. "This is valid for women everywhere else if they think so themselves."

Anti-apartheid Army officers to contest polls

By William MacLean

A HIGH-FLYING career in the South African military is an unusual background for an anti-apartheid campaigner.

But General Wally Black is running for parliament in the September 6 general elections with the message that apartheid is wrong and whites must negotiate a peaceful path towards black majority rule.

The 66-year-old former Director-General of Operations of the South African Defence Force (SADF) is one of three retired senior officers who have been nominated as general election candidates for the Liberal Democratic Party.

The others are General Bob Rogers, 67, chief of the Air Force from 1974-79, and Colonel Hilda Burnett, 59, Commanding Officer of the Army Women's Training College from 1973-78.

Ex-officers have run for liberal opposition parties in the past but none held positions as senior as those of Black and Rogers, a decorated World War Two and Korean War fighter pilot.

All three are grandparents who say they want to bequeath a more stable, egalitarian and prosperous South Africa.

They want negotiations with the banned African National Congress (ANC), the main organisation fighting white rule, and the release of jailed black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela.

Like most whites they want the ANC to suspend violence, a move it refuses to make prior to negotiations, but are adamant that a solution is impossible without the group's participation.

"A future without the ANC giving some input is impossible," said Burnett.

Black majority rule "is going to be inevitable," said Black. "These have been minority views among a conservative white electorate which for 40 years has plumped consistently for the ruling National Party and its race segregation policies."

Security is of paramount importance in a country where the white minority is increasingly fearful of the future. The National Party has been at an advantage because traditionally it has had closer ties to the military. It also has had more ex-officers as candidates than any other party.

It has rarely missed a chance to accuse the Democratic Party and its progressive Federal Party predecessor of being soft on security.

The nomination of Black, Burnett and Rogers as Democratic Party candidates may help rebut the charge. The party says they were nominated solely on their qualities as individuals but admits their military pasts will do no harm at all to its campaign.

"A military background obviously gives you a certain degree of respectability. People know where you are coming from," said Craig Williamson, a former major in the security police and a National Party candidate.

The three former officers said in telephone interviews they wanted strong military forces but said apartheid required heavy, economically damaging spending on defence and security.

They said a three-year-old state of emergency, which gives troops and police sweeping powers to crush dissent, had caused endemic violence and failed to resolve the issue of political rights for the voteless black majority.

"It's far better to get the co-operation of black people than hit them

with a stick," said Burnett.

"You've got to deal with the security danger, but that's short-term. You want people who are happy," she said.

The National Party says it wants security for whites so they can negotiate politically with blacks from a position of strength. The far right Conservative Party, the main opposition, speaks of security only in terms of protection for whites.

Burnett is from the dominant Afrikaner community that is traditionally the backbone of National Party support. She left the National Party two years ago, but said persuading fellow Afrikaners to follow her would not be easy.

"To break with what is very well-known to you is not easy... they are still a little afraid of a future they don't know," she said.

Black was promoted to SADF director-general of operations in July 1976 in the immediate aftermath of riots in Johannesburg's Soweto Township in which hundreds of men, women and children were shot dead by police. He retired in 1978.

He said his views had been shaped partly by those events. "White people didn't appreciate fully the conditions under which those people lived... there was a lack of everything, of basic facilities," he said.

He said there was a "fair sprinkling" of senior officers in the military who held similar views.

Rogers said many officers knew the government had to talk to credible black leaders about bringing blacks into government but "a lot of the voters just don't want to know that message."

(Reuters — Johannesburg)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Organ transplants and Indian laws

SIR: I have a few comments to make regarding the article "India offers legal trade in human organs" (AT - June 20) as it seems that the author is probably misinformed about Indian law in this regard.

There is nothing in Indian law which prohibits organ transplantation from the dead. Hundreds of cadaver corneas have been transplanted in India for the last two decades.

The major reason why cadaver kidney transplantation has not yet succeeded in India is that the bereaved relatives of the deceased do not consent easily. Moreover most of the hospitals in India do not have a team who can preserve cadaver organs and rapidly transplant it to needy patients.

Motivation of the public by proper education and the creation of an organ

preservation team in each hospital with rapid transport facilities to the nearest transplant centre may be a right approach in this direction.

Kidneys are probably sold by live persons in India but this transaction has no legal sanction. In fact most of the time in black and white it is a donation and money changes hand under the table. People take advantage of poverty to buy an organ with money.

Unless the human mind changes for the better the horrid spectre of the motion picture "coma" will not merely be a figment of the imagination but is likely to become a stark reality all over the world as organ transplantation facilities become widespread.

I hope the Indian embassy would use your forum to provide a readers further details about Indian law and organ transplantation.

Dr Kanjalka Ghosh,
Farwaniya Hospital.

Unjust burden

SIR Indian Airlines' decision to increase the airfare by 20-30 per cent is another bombshell to the NRIs in the wake of 200 per cent increase in international airport tax.

It is amusing to read that the fare hike is to compensate for the expenses of IA's modernisation plans (including capital investments) and higher wage bill.

When the price of aviation fuel rose they were prompt to shift it on to the customer, but when it fell it was conveniently left unnoticed.

Where are the profits disappearing? Or is the NRIs to believe that all these years AI was operating at a loss forcing them now to fall back on the air travellers to shore up the deficits?

It is really disappointing that the customers are put to bear the brunt — to act as 'shock absorbers'.

For how many years have the NRIs

been crying to get the baggage allowance of 20 kg and the customs duty allowance of Rs 1,500 increased? The value of the Indian rupee has gone down dramatically and yet the duty allowance remains the same. All pleas fall on deaf ears. Except for increasing the burden on the NRI periodically, has ever a grievance of his been redressed?

The NRI has always been and is considered as a panacea for IA's as well as Air-India's financial problems.

Nobody is willing to accept the fact that the heydays of the NRI are over that his income graph is dipping. Every year he is forced to tighten his belt in an endeavour to sustain the escalating expenses both in Kuwait and back home.

A re-vamping of the administration machinery, cutting down of concessions and the enforcement of strict economic measures would perhaps be a better solution than exploiting the helpless travellers for each and every thing.

It tantamount to nothing but civilised plunder.

C.K. Satyraj,
Satel.

Rule Britannia

SIR: There have been complaints about the Consular Section of the British Embassy in your columns. Your readers might like to know that from my experience the section is now running smoothly and no-one needs to wait for more than half an hour before being admitted into the Consular building and being given an appointment for an interview if this is necessary. This is very good news. Thank you British Embassy.

Wizir Al Shukri, Satel.

All letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publications at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

كلمة اليوم

Ahmad 'eventual leader' of Majlis

MANAMA, June 28, (UPI): A Tehran newspaper, which normally supports Iran's powerful Parliament Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, predicted today the only surviving son of Ayatollah Khomeini, Ahmad, would eventually assume the leadership of Parliament.

The English-language daily Tehran Times said that "with his (Ahmad Khomeini's) participation in mid-term Majlis (Parliament) elections, we can possibly predict from now that Ahmad Khomeini will assume the leadership of the Majlis in the not-too-distant future."

The newspaper's prediction came a day

after the majority of Majlis deputies asked Ahmad to seek a senior post in Parliament.

Iranian opposition sources said the offer of such a senior position was intended to dissuade Khomeini's son from presidential ambitions that might threaten pragmatist leader Rafsanjani.

Rafsanjani's Tehran constituency seat will be vacated next month when he resigns to stand for the presidency. Elections are slated for July 28, and candidates have a week beginning today to register their names with the Interior Ministry.

There has been no immediate reaction from Ahmad Khomeini to the reports

about his political future.

The Tehran Times said Rafsanjani's expected election to the executive presidency would leave a "vacuum" in the "legislative branch" that Ahmad Khomeini could help to fill.

The newspaper said Khomeini's son showed the power of "realistic decision-making, minus colour and empty sloganeering" in his reaction to the selection of outgoing President Ali Khamenei to replace Khomeini as Iran's supreme leader.

The statement appeared to openly recognize for the first time the political

ambitions of Ahmad, who has spent the last decade working as his father's close aide. In recognition of this, the elder Khomeini gave Ahmad sole authority to recognize his sayings, writings and teachings.

The Tehran Times also praised the younger Khomeini as proving his "sharp political wit" by not interfering in Khamenei's selection as leader.

Outspoken supporters of 55-year-old Rafsanjani, reached in Tehran by telephone from Ankara, Turkey, said putting up two candidates for election as president could plunge the nation into civil war.

Bonn will try to stop shipment

BONN, June 28, (Reuters): West German government sources said today Bonn would try to prevent a shipment of chemicals used to make lethal mustard gas from reaching Iran.

The shipment of the Indian-made poison gas component thionyl chloride, brokered by a West German firm, has not yet left India, a senior government source told Reuters.

Asked if Bonn saw ways of blocking the shipment, the spokesman said efforts would be made to do so.

Bonn launched an inquiry into the firm, Rheineisen Export GmbH of Dusseldorf, after receiving US allegations that it arranged the supply of large amounts of the chemicals to Iran.

"The Foreign Ministry said yesterday that at West Germany's request, Iran had withdrawn a diplomat from Bonn accused by Washington of helping set up the deal through contacts with Rheineisen."

US State Department officials said yesterday Washington was pressing Bonn to stop the transaction — which the New York Times newspaper said consisted of hundreds of tons of thionyl chloride manufactured in India.

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said Secretary of State James Baker voiced concern about the deal to West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher last week.

West Germany's ZDF television network today quoted a senior clerk at Rheineisen, the Dusseldorf export firm, as saying it had obtained a licence from the local customs office to arrange a shipment of chemicals to Iran.

Iran has yet to decide whether to return ambassadors to Paris and Bonn it recalled four months ago over the Salman Rushdie affair, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said today.

Cyprus challenges Turkey

NICOSIA, June 28, (Reuters): Cyprus has challenged Turkey to accept the jurisdiction of the international Court of Justice over Ankara's 1974 invasion of the island, Foreign Ministry officials said today.

"It is the first time the government challenges Turkey to take legal aspects of the Cyprus situation to any court," an official said.

Speaking at a non-aligned foreign ministers' meeting at the Hague earlier this week, Foreign Minister George Iacovou invited Turkey to jointly refer the Cyprus question to the court.

Meanwhile, the fourth round of UN-sponsored talks on the unification of Cyprus opened today, but the Turkish Cypriot side has opposed the indirect talks and called for direct negotiations.

Scant progress has been reported in the past 10 months of negotiations and no breakthrough was expected this week in what is likely to be protracted discussion.

In another development, a Turkish airliner heading for Nicosia from Athens was forced to land in Cyprus after a Greek-Cypriot pilot was shot down over the island city of Nicosia, civil aviation officials said today.

Iran expels UK businessman

LONDON, June 28, (Reuters): Iran has ordered a British businessman to leave the country following his expulsion of three Iranians from Britain for security reasons nearly two weeks ago, the Foreign Office said today.

Harold Bowden, a long-time British resident in Tehran, was told he had to leave Iran by July 5, the spokesman said, adding "there might be one or two others" asked to leave.

Bowden, who had permanent Iranian resident status, was given no reason for the order which was apparently in retaliation for the expulsion of the Iranians from Britain on June 16.

The Swedish embassy in Tehran, which

Israelis stab Arabs to avenge explosion

Shamir to meet prominent Palestinians

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, June 28, (Agencies): Angry Jews stabbed two Arab bystanders in the central town of Ramle to avenge a grenade attack today that wounded four Israelis, one of them seriously, police said.

The grenade exploded in a rubbish bin of the town's main street. Israel Radio said police rounded up dozens of Arab suspects.

Shortly afterwards, Israelis stabbed two local Arab brothers in Ramle's open-air market, police said.

Two Israelis were arrested and the lightly-wounded Arabs were

taken to hospital as paramilitary border police rushed to the town to prevent a further outbreak of violence.

Ramle, 18 km (12 miles) from Tel Aviv, has a mixed Arab-Jewish population.

A Jewish resident said: "I do not think it was someone from among our own (Arabs) because we live with them excellently. What happened here today is awful," he said.

Angered by the spread of an 18-month Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip inside Israel, Jewish extremists have stepped up revenge attacks on Arabs.

Last month they stoned to death a Palestinian from the West Bank to avenge the killing of a kidnapped soldier and tried to lynch an Arab from Ramallah who stabbed two elderly Jews to death in Jerusalem.

Jewish settlers in the occupied territories have killed about 20 Palestinians, some during revenge rampages through Arab villages.

The four victims of the blast suffered light injuries, according to officials at Ramle hospital.

In the occupied Gaza Strip, a Palestinian accused of collaborating with Israeli authorities died of wounds suffered in a beating by fellow Arabs last week, Arab reporters said.

At least eight Palestinians were reported shot and wounded in clashes between soldiers and rock-throwing protesters in the West Bank. The Army said it had reports of seven wounded, but would not give details of the clashes.

Israel's supreme court denied the appeal of a Palestinian against deportation, opening the way for expelling the 48th resident of the occupied territories since the start of the uprising.

Meanwhile, American Jewish leader Seymour Reich criticized a proposal to move a wave of Soviet immigrants, expected if Moscow eases its policies on exit visas, to Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, Israel Radio reported.

A Palestinian prisoner in a desert detention centre killed two inmates, and police suggested the victims may have been accused of collaborating with Israeli authorities.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir intends to meet with prominent Palestinians within 30 days in hopes of winning their support for his peace initiative in the Israeli-occupied territories, an aide said.

The proposed meetings would be the first between Shamir and Palestinians since the Israeli government approved his peace plan in May.

While Shamir has met with Gaza Strip and West Bank Palestinians a few times in the past, most residents of the territories generally have insisted Israel must negotiate peace directly with the PLO.

The left-wing Al Hamishmar newspaper, however, reported yesterday the PLO has given permission for East Jerusalem Palestinians to meet with Shamir if invited. A PLO spokesman in Tunis, Tunisia, would neither confirm nor deny the report.

Israeli President Chaim Herzog has accused the PLO of hampering his country's peace efforts in the Middle East and tailoring its pronouncements to suit its audience.

A major Arab country has advised that Washington should send an envoy to discuss with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad the inclusion of Syria in the diplomatic efforts to resolve the Arab-Israeli dispute, it was reported today.

The EEC leaders' statement coincided with their countries' declared stands and with the de facto situation in the region, Ossaimi noted and clarified that ignoring the Palestinian people led by PLO, its sole, legitimate representative, can never serve the Middle East peace process.

The Palestinian people's heroic uprising in the occupied lands and Israel's repressive and inhuman measures to quell it have moved the world's conscience and it was no longer acceptable to ignore those people's rights, Ossaimi emphasised.



Injured Armenians disembark from a plane, which brought them to Israel for treatment. (Reuters wirephoto)

A real tragedy

Israel eyes Soviet ties

YEREVAN, USSR, June 28, (Agencies): One by one they emerged, most leaning heavily on crutches with only one leg. They are victims of an ongoing tragedy that began almost seven months ago as the earth shook under Armenia.

These survivors of the Dec 7 earthquake that killed 25,000 people and injured thousands more are still haunted by visions of collapsing buildings. They also bear the scars of emergency surgery and are left with stumps that promise a life as social misfits.

"I want my left leg to heal, so that I would have at least one leg and I want to be able to walk normally like young women do. I want to be able to do everything at home, to be a good housewife," said Alyona Berchulak.

Berchulak, an attractive 19-year-old with dark hair, had bigger plans. She was a graduate student working on a construction site and planned a career as a construction site manager.

But that was before she was trapped in the twisted steel and concrete ruins of a nine-storey dormitory in Leninakan, Armenia's second-largest city.

"We finished our post-graduate practice and were gathering our belongings to return home when the earthquake started," said Berchulak.

"We tried to run out, but the door was stuck, the lock was broken."

Now confined to a wheelchair, Berchulak lost her right leg. Doctors diagnosed multiple fractures in her left leg, and she has suffered from kidney complications.

Unemployed, Berchulak was recognised as an "invalid of the first group" by the state, which entitled her to a monthly 75-ruble pension, about \$10 on the Soviet black market.

"I am sorry, but it's impossible to live on that," she said.

Even so, Berchulak is more fortunate than some. She was among the 61 earthquake survivors, 49 of whom are amputees, who were flown to Israel for medical treatment yesterday on "Mission Healing," which was funded by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC).

Aryeh Cooperstock, an American official who co-ordinated the project, said many of the amputees are suffering from inadequate, hastily performed emergency surgeries.

Paris, June 28, (Reuters): France had decided to lift an embargo on arms sales to Libya as a sign of approval for leader Muammar Khaddafi's recent moderate policies, a French radio station reported yesterday.

But the easing of restrictions will not extend to arms which could represent a threat to the former French protectorate of Chad, which has fought Libya for control of the disputed Aouzou Strip border region, Radio Monte Carlo added.

Quoting sources close to the defence and foreign ministries, it said the decision to lift an embargo introduced in 1983 had been taken at an inter-ministerial committee meeting on June 15.

The committee, which specialises in arms exports, meets behind closed doors.

A spokesman at the Defence Ministry declined to comment.

Radio Monte Carlo said the easing of restrictions was the

result of a widespread feeling that Khaddafi was now on a right path and relations with Chad were normalising. The decision was intended as a gesture of encouragement.

Spare parts for high-speed motor launches and radar systems will be the first exports allowed under the new ruling, the radio station added.

Libya and Chad restored diplomatic ties last October after agreeing to settle a 15-year-old dispute over the Aouzou Strip.

But the radio report comes as a surprise following warnings by Chad earlier this month that the Libyan troops were massing on Chad's border with Sudan and could be preparing a new attack.

France, Chad's former colonial master, has maintained a strong military presence in the country to help Chadian President Hissene Habre resist Libyan-backed rebels.

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Co-operation

NICOSIA, June 28, (Reuters): The national airlines of Iran, Turkey and Pakistan agreed yesterday to set up a joint catering service to provide halal meals — food which conforms to Islamic rules — for their own planes and other carriers.

Tehran Radio, heard in Cyprus, said that at a three-day meeting in the Iranian capital representatives of Iran Air, Turkish Airlines and Pakistan International Airlines also agreed to co-operate in training, cargo and passenger transport and reservation systems.

French military

DJIBOUTI, June 28, (Reuters): President Hassan Gouled Aptidon has reaffirmed that France would not reduce its military presence in the small Red Sea state.

In a speech to mark the 12th anniversary of Djibouti's independence yesterday, he also emphasised Djibouti's neutrality in conflicts in the Horn of Africa.

Gouled, who visited Paris earlier this month for talks with President Francois Mitterrand, said France's civil and military presence in his desert state of only 450,000 inhabitants "would not be reduced."

Congruency

MOSCOW, June 28, (KUNA): The Amir of Bahrain Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa was quoted as saying there was congruency in Moscow's and Manama's attitude towards international issues.

Soviet weekly, Zorobogom, quoted Sheikh Isa in a news dispatch from Manama as saying congruency in the two countries' stands creates a strong foundation for co-operation between the two countries.

Mubarak's request

CAIRO, June 28, (Reuters): President Hosni Mubarak has asked former Sudanese leader Jaafar Nimeiri, an exile in Cairo since 1985, to halt political activities that could jeopardise ties with Khartoum, a prominent Egyptian editor said today.

"Over the past four weeks Mubarak sent two of his closest aides to Nimeiri, requesting him to stop any activities that could strain Egypt's relations with Sudan," wrote Makram Mohammed Ahmed in his weekly Al-Mussawar.

Ahmed, known to be close to Mubarak, dismissed reports that Nimeiri had left Egypt.

Palestinian aid fund

AMMAN, June 28, (Reuters): Jordanian and PLO officials decided yesterday to transform a bankrupt aid fund for Palestinians under Israeli rule into a databank until Arab countries pay their dues.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) executive committee member Mohammed Milhem, told Reuters the fund had been transformed into a databank until Arab countries pay their dues.

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EVENTS

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV1

9.00 Opening and Holy Quran
9.15 Sabah Al Khair News and Variety
9.30 Cartoons
10.00 Magazine D'Actualite
10.15 Hafat Al Hawiya: Arabic Serial
11.00 Sabah Al Khair News and Variety
11.15 Al Nisr Wa Ayoun Al Madina: Arabic serial
12.00 Sabah Al Khair News
12.05 Local Variety Programme
1.00 News Summary
1.05 The World Today via Satellite
1.30 Falouma: Cartoon Serial
2.00 Variety
2.15 Imra'a La Taref Al Yas: Arabic serial
3.00 Mawsoat Al Sona Al Nabawiya: Religious programme
3.30 Bibi Folk and Calimiro: cartoon serial
4.00 Al Shater Hassan: Local Arabic children's play, Starring Abdul Rahman Agel, Istiqlal Ahmad, Mohammed Jaber
6.00 Cartoons
7.00 Variety
7.30 Al Bath an Al Moghamara (Looking For Adventure): cultural programme
8.30 Ma'a Al Islam: Religious programme
9.00 News in Arabic
10.00 Al Yaqeen: Daily Arabic Serial (Part 4)
10.45 Nahr Al Khoof: Arabic feature film, Starring: Mahmood Abdul Aziz, Noora, Salah Qabeel and Ahmad Rateb

12.15 Ikhtarna Lakom
12.30 Holy Quran and Closedown
FRIDAY
9.00 Opening and Holy Quran
9.25 Cartoons
10.00 Magazine D'Actualite
10.15 Majalat Al Aftal (Children Magazine)
10.45 Al Ahadeeth Al Mawdo'a: Religious programme
11.15 Firday Prayers
12.30 Alwan: Local Variety Programme
1.00 News Summary
1.05 The World today via Satellite
1.30 Isterahat Al Jomaa: Local Variety Programme
4.00 Ana Ohowa Wehiya: Arabic Play, Starring: Fuad Al Mohandes, Shwaikar
7.00 Al Kuwait Fi Osbo: local documentary programme
7.30 Kuwait in a Week
8.00 Weekly programme: Religious programme presented by Ali Al Jassar
9.00 News in Arabic
10.00 Wrestling
10.45 Kalema: Variety Programme
12.00 News Summary
12.05 The World today via Satellite
12.30 Holy Quran and Closedown

KTV2

6.00 Opening and Holy Quran
6.10 Denver: cartoon serial
6.30 The New Mickey Mouse

Club
7.00 Munsters Today: comedy
7.30 T.N.T.: "Victim of Fashion." Turner and Taylor are drawn by the intrigue and mystery of the fashion world. Starring: Mr T. Action.
8.00 News in English
8.40 Beauty and the Beast: Starring: Linda Hamilton as Catherine and Ron Pearlman as Vincent
9.30 Paul Daniel's Magic Show
10.30 Thursday's Feature: "The Winning Never Quit." Starring: Keith Carradine, Marie Winingham, Dennis Weaver. The true story of a disabled American baseball player.
12.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown.

FRIDAY

4.00 Opening and Holy Quran
4.10 Centurions: cartoon serial
4.30 Italian Football
5.30 American Basketball
6.30 Inter Bang: Gianni and Bruno come to Thailand to unravel the mystery of the gang's boss.
7.00 Once a Hero: "Thank You, Captain Justice." Journalist Emma turns Captain Justice into a popular hero.
8.00 News in English
8.30 Breaking Away: a look at entertainment at the sea clubs in Kuwait
8.50 Sable



A scene from 'TNT' on KTV 2 at 7.30 pm today.

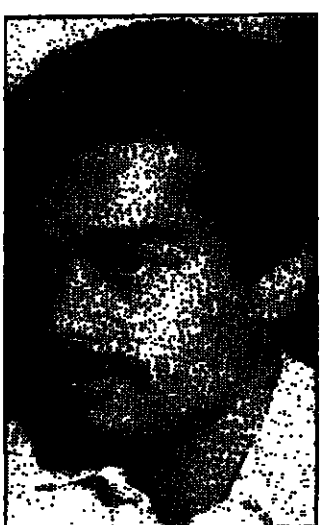
9.30 The Charmings: Comedy
10.00 Tales from the Dark-side: Djinni, No Chaser. A couple buy an old lamp that turns out to be a magic lamp.
10.30 Blue Blood: Private eye Henry is involved in another exciting adventure in tonight's episode. Starring: Lauren Hutton, Albert Fortell, Marisa Berenson
11.30 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

● All entries for the What's On column can be sent by telex (22332) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursday, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.



'Blue Blood' on KTV 2 at 10.30 pm on Friday.



Abdul Rahman Agel in Arabic children's play, 'Al Shater Hassan' on KTV 1 at 4.00 pm today.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Kuwait Science Museum
OPEN Saturday to Wednesday, 8-9 pm only. Natural history exhibits from in and around Kuwait, including blue whale. Closed on Thursday and Friday.

Islamic Arts Museum
SAT - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon and 7.00 to 10.00 pm. Collection includes rare Islamic artefacts, Quranic manuscripts, ceramics, carpets and marine equipment. Arabian Gulf St.

Sadu House
SAT - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon, 7 to 10 pm. Exhibits include bedouin handicrafts - rugs, saddle bags, cushions and textiles. Closed on Friday.

Tareq Rajab Museum
Sat - Thurs: 9 - 12 noon and 4 - 7 pm. Also open on Fridays from 9 to 12 noon.

MUSIC

Octave musical

JUNE 29: Due to public demand, Octave musical group repeats Indian musical programme at 7.30 pm at IAC auditorium. A show with a difference.

SOCIAL

Kuwait Malayalee Catholic Association

JUNE 30: The Kuwait Malayalee Catholic Association (KMCA) will hold a cultural show at 4 pm at the church hall. Classical and folk dance and a fancy dress competition will be held, in addition to other contests.

KMCA will also hold a get-together on the same day at 4 pm at the Church parish hall to say goodbye to Fr. Cyril Karimundakal who will leave Kuwait after six years here.

Kapilku ceremony

JUNE 30: Kapilku will award certificates of attendance for the hotel and restaurant class on Friday from 7 pm at Ramada Hotel. Food and drinks - KD3 per person. Contact Sarah Macarimbang, VP social & cultural affairs. Tel: 484-3447.

Kapilku

JUNE 30: Kapilku will hold a special ceremony to award certificates of attendance to the participants of their hotel and restaurant class at the Ramada Al Salam Hotel, Navigation Room, at 7 pm.

"Hotter Than July"
July 7 (Friday): A pop, rock, country and reggae music festival to be held at the Messilah Beach Hotel Ballroom from 7 to 10 pm. The groups to be featured are Top Ranks, Earthquake, Zambesi, Manila Boys, Louie Villaveau, Daniel Sisters and special guest appearance by Steve Michael. Tickets priced at KD5/- are available at: Messilah Beach Hotel - Tel. 5624111 Ext. 721/729; Art Corner, Nagra: 2665068/2659820; Swan Lake Recording, Salmiya: 5721030; No. 1 Records, Sultan Center - 5719620 Ext. 46.

Special offer for office and home delivery of tickets please call 2669963, 3928504 and 5639689.

Musical instruments will be given as gifts on entrance tickets.

Red and Black nite

JULY 11: The Weekend Club will host the Red & Black Nite at the Sheikh Ballroom of the Regency Palace with Top Ranks, Perfect Strangers and Stepping Stones in attendance. Dress is informal but red and black combinations. Highlights include selection of the Red and Black Couple, most original costumes and a live contest. Gala buffet dinner is included. For reservations contact Hilary: 5741380; Julio: 5734513 and Mercedes: 4890566.

D'Assisi Social Evening

AUG 1: D'Assisi Association will hold their social evening at the Messilah Beach Hotel. The highlights of the evening will be the crowning of D'Assisi Queen. Top Ranks and Stepping Stones will provide the music. For more information contact Joe Jack Ferns on 5644178, Henry 3717346 or contact A.M. Fine Artist, Shop No. 34, Al Karak Super Market, near GPO, Kuwait.

United Goans

AUG 3: Summerbelle '89 is about to happen. United Goans Centre present "Top Ranks and Stepping Stones" in a music saturated evening at the

Tent SAS Hotel. Crowning of Summerbelle, various competitions, etc. to keep you on your toes. For details contact: Moses 2454266, Joe 5655140. Amicet 2439249 after 6 pm.

Tivim Centre

OCT. 26: Tivim Centre's Breeze 89 is going to hit the floors of Ramada Al Salam Hotel New Ballroom at a social evening organised in commemoration of village festival. Top Rank and Stepping Stones will provide scintillating music. Lot of surprises await. For further information contact the organisers.

HOTELS

At the Messilah Beach

AL MUBARAKIAH, the only 24 hour restaurant in Kuwait, offers a full spectrum of local and Continental specialties with daily buffet for breakfast, lunch and dinner plus A La Carte menu.

Al Jawharah Super Night Club, live entertainment by the resident "Rainbow" band with extensive A La Carte menu on Wednesdays and special buffet on Thursdays.

Al Berdownah beach garden restaurant open daily Sunday to Friday offering a variety of succulent charcoal grills. Lebanese Mezza, freshly baked Markoub bread and hubble bubble.

At the SAS

WELCOME on board Al Boom. Dine on our delicious mezzah buffet followed by your favourite speciality from our wide selection of fine charcoal grills and finish off with della coffee or have a puff from the hubble bubble/pipe. Dinner daily and lunch every Thursday and Friday. For reservation, call 5657000 ext 403 or 540.

At the Ramada Hotel

EL BENDAR coffee shop at the Ramada Hotel offers continental and Arabic buffets daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner from 6 am to 12 mid night daily, a la carte also available. A selection of home baked cakes, gateaux and tarts made to order.

Marina take away counter offering a selection of Arabic sandwiches and snacks open from 4 pm till 11 pm daily.

Ramada Al Salam lobby lounge open 10 am to 11 pm on Sundays offering a selection of coffee, tea and juice, cakes and pastries available.

At the Kuwait International CHILDREN'S Party: On June 30 and July 7. Kermit, Donald Duck, Fozzie Bear, many other playmates, a huge Kiddie Castle, games, puppet shows and video film promise to make it an entertaining day for the children.

Swimming competition too, so bring your swimming trunks. From 12.30 pm to 4.00 pm. KD5 for adults and KD3 for children under 12 years. Tickets on sale at reception: 2530000/8039.

La Palma: Presents a culinary trip around the world featuring authentic Chinese, Mexican, Indian, African, Italian, British, German, Turkish and Arabic dishes. Theme nights on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Ext: 8166.

Garden Pool: Relax by the pool and enjoy our Mongolian and American barbecue on alternate Fridays. Ext: 8052.

At the Kuwait Plaza

MARCOPOLO: The Italian restaurant in the heart of the city offers jumbo authentic pizza, spaghetti, lasagne and a wide variety of real Italian dishes in Italian ambience with live music by the most celebrated duo Stan and Alice. Lounge corner. The Parisian cafe with Arabic music by the on player Fawzi Jamal. Enjoy the delights of different sandwiches and mouth watering juices and Arabic icecream. A special promotion for business lunch four courses including coffee or tea for only KD2.500.

Al Dallah coffee shop: Mezzah and sweet buffet with our favourite speciality a la carte, ask for our 'Plat De Jour'.

At the Meridian

HOTEL Meridian Kuwait features special weekly promotion at La Brasserie restaurant: Asian Corner every Saturday, Monday and Wednesday. A wide variety of Asian dishes, in addition to the regular buffet, will be featured. Tempura, fried noodles, etc. are prepared in front of the guests and served on the spot.

Mexican Night every Sunday: Discover the delight of Mexican cuisine awaiting you in our 'Little Mexico'.

Greek Tavern every Tuesday: Experience authentic Greek ambience and food with live Bouzouki music and wide variety of mezzah.

Enjoy an evening of foot tapping fun every Thursday. Remy and Tony's jam session in La Brasserie.

Family day every Friday: Enjoy a day with your family. La Brasserie offers a wide array of Oriental favourites along with live music, entertainment, and a magician to thrill the little ones and many other games for the children.

SPORTS

Laser sailing

MBLC announces their sailing for 1989 as follows: Brain Boiler Series - July 7 to Sept 1, Autumn Series - Sept 8 to Oct 27, KMMC second Kuwait Laser Open Championship - Oct 19 and 20, MBLC Americas Cup match racing - Oct 27; Winter series - Nov 3 to Dec 29; Jebel Ali Gulf Championship - Nov 16 and 17, Flying Dutchman Trophy - Dec 8, MBLC Turkey race - Dec 22.

All interested laser sailors wishing to compete in the above events please contact D. Clark, 4845171 (w) 2425947

Al Mosawi and Khayat to make European debut

DUBAI: A two car Marlboro-Mitsubishi Ralliart Team is to participate in the Baja Aragon Rally in Zaragoza, Spain from July 20 to 23 with the team being headed by Marlboro Desert Challenge champion Abbas Al Mosawi from Qatar. Also driving is 1985 Middle East Group A rally champion Mamdouh Khayat from Saudi Arabia.

"I am very pleased to confirm our participation in Spain," said Ralliart technical manager Janne Lindstrom. "We were all disappointed when we had to cancel our entry to a scheduled event in Portugal, due to overbooked cargo flights from Hong Kong, because of the difficulties in China. However, the cars are firmly set for Spain."

The Zaragoza raid event will be the first outing outside the Gulf for the two talented Arab drivers. "Well it is very pleasing to become involved in competition like this, we are able to get a lot of four-wheel-drive rally experience in the Gulf and maybe we can do well in international competition," said Mamdouh Khayat.

The Baja Aragon FIA raid event consists of two important sections the prologue, which takes place at 9 am, July 21 and the 800 kms selective which starts at 6 am on July 22, finishing at 6 pm the same day. The results will be published on the morning of July 23.

Abbas Al Mosawi will be partnered by Bobby Willis from Ireland, the same co-driver who participated in the recent Scottish Rally with Dubai's Ahmed Bin Khalifa,

(b); P. Shepherd, 4841513 (w) 3314957 (b); K. Balman, 5624111 Messilah Beach Hotel. **Keep fit classes**
Aerobics, judo, karate, taekwondo, and keep fit classes at the Kuwait International. Separate classes for ladies and men as well as mixed sessions. Bowling tournament during August. Barbeque lunch every Friday afternoon by the Garden Pool. Tennis and swimming coaching also. Details with the Recreation Manager, Paul Woodland at 2530000/8030.

CINEMA TODAY

Al Firdous
Sachche Ka Bol Balaa
Starring: Dev Anand, Meenakshi Seshadri
Fahadheel Open Air
Red Rose
Al Fahadheel
Bahar
Al Jahra
Arabic film
Granada
Chase
Al Sulaihiat
Anuragi
Al Jeeb
Vardi
Ahmadi Drive-In
Arabic film
FRIDAY
Al Jahra
Halloween III

Granada
Ilaaka
Al Sulaihiat
Iron Angles II
Al Jeeb
Kasam Suhaag Ki

PRAYERS

Fajr	3.16 am
Zuhr	11.51
Asr	3.25 pm
Maghreb	6.51
Isha	8.24

FRIDAY	
Fajr	3.16 am
Friday prayers	11.51
Asr	3.25 pm
Maghreb	6.51
Isha	8.24

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Al Watan Pharmacy
Fahd Al Salem St.
Al Mejal Pharmacy
Abdullah Al Mubarak St.

Hawalli and Nagra
Hawalli Pharmacy
Hawalli, Tunis St.

Salmiya and Rumailhiya
Al Radd Pharmacy
Rumailhiya, Amman St.
Fahadheel and Ahmadi
Dastoor Pharmacy
Fahadheel, Al Daboos St.

Jeeb Al Shiyaikh
Al Ayoub Pharmacy
Jahra
Al Abraj Pharmacy
Dabal Al Khozai St.

FRIDAY

Kuwait
Garnada Pharmacy
Fahd Al Salem St.
Al Amal Pharmacy
Mubarak Al Kabir St.

Hawalli and Nagra
Al Kamal Pharmacy
Hawalli, Tunis St.

Salmiya and Rumailhiya
Al Bader Pharmacy
Salmiya, Bilajat St.

Fahadheel and Ahmadi
Al Sherba Pharmacy
Fahadheel.

New Kheitan
Ibn Sereen St.

Al Jahra
Al Khaled Pharmacy
Opp. to Jahra Co-op

Apparel buyers conference

THE Apparel Export Promotion Council, the Nodal Agency for promotion of garments from India is organising an International Apparel Buyers Conference in New Delhi on July 29 coinciding with India Garments Fair from July 28 to 30. Conference would provide a forum for discussion between importers of Indian apparel, exporters and senior officials of the government and other agencies. Those attending this conference would have an opportunity to see the latest garment collection. For further information contact J.S. Khurana, director-general, Apparel Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, Telex No. 31-66037.

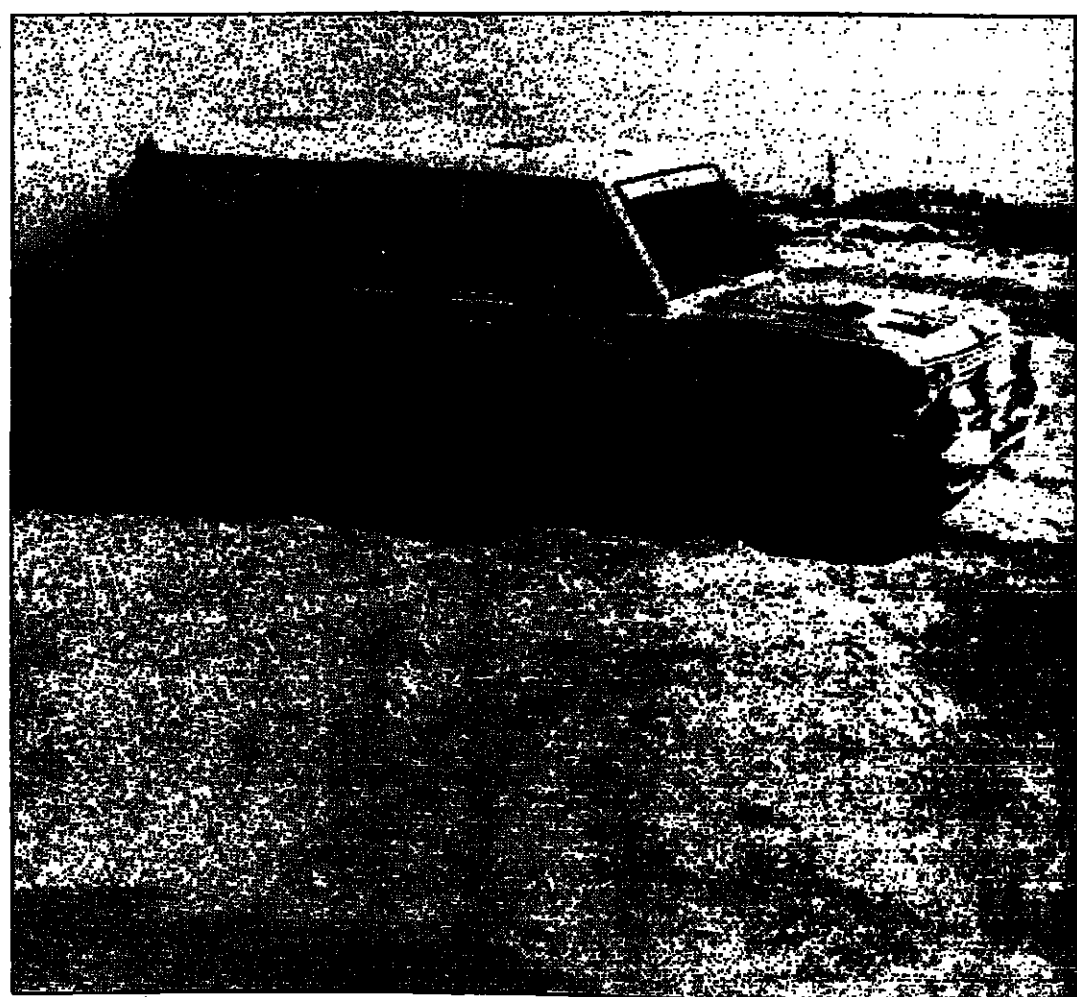
Octave to re-stage musical evening

OCTAVE was formed in late 1988 by a group of eight music lovers. The primary aim of Octave is to promote and encourage new but talented local artists on stage in the field of Indian film music.

Our first show was held on June 9 at the I.A.C. auditorium in Funaites before an appreciative audience. They were particularly impressed by the excellent presentation of old and new film hits in major Indian regional languages, together with imaginative and spectacular stage lighting. Judging from newspaper reports we are proud to say that we delivered what we promised, "a show with a difference."

Unfortunately a large number of our well wishers and other music lovers of Kuwait could not attend that show. Many others have expressed their desire to see the show again. We were overwhelmed by such requests that we decided to re-stage the programme on June 29 at the same venue.

It will be our endeavour not only to repeat our show but also to improve on it making the grand musical evening a truly memorable experience.



A Marlboro team during practice.

navigating for Mamdouh Khayat will be Dubai based expatriate Julian Raymond.

This will be a tough event and quite a test for drivers and cars," said Abbas Al Mosawi. "The prologue will dictate the starting order of the rally, whilst the selective of 800 kms is

non-stop and certainly be a test of stamina."

An interesting feature of the Baja Aragon, which takes place through the Montebancos Mountains from Zaragoza is that it is a blind rally. In other words no pre-race practice is permitted and the crew will

have to rely on the road books and route markings.

Service is crucial to a good result so the team is being supported by the full Ralliart Middle East workshop, with four mechanics and two management personnel accompanying the team from Dubai to Spain.

Al Mosawi

BUSINESS & FINANCE

World energy demand soaring

LONDON, June 28, (Reuters): World energy demand is soaring even as ecologists plead for an international effort to use less.

Worried about a threatened atmospheric warming, the World Environment Commission says a campaign to burn fuel more efficiently is "the only realistic option for the 21st century."

But so far, few people seem to be listening. Oil giant British Petroleum (BP) says energy demand jumped 3.7 per cent last year after a 2.8 per cent rise in 1987. And if the International Energy Agency (IEA) is to be believed, the trend is set.

The IEA, the West's energy watchdog, predicts that five years into the next century we will be burning 50 per cent more fossil fuel than we do now.

The fossil fuels — coal, oil and gas — are leading sources of the carbon dioxide which many scientists indict as the chief culprit in a predicted global warming or "greenhouse effect." A new "save it" drive has begun in several Western countries, recalling the era of the 1973 Arab oil embargo and OPEC price shocks.

President George Bush wants better mileage performance from gas-guzzling US cars. Popular paperbacks urge readers to draught-proof the loft, buy a thermostat and vote for "switching" taxes on coal and petroleum to discourage their use.

Conservation lobbyists point to Western technology's past success in humbling the OPEC organisation.

The extra oil needed for each new dollar of Western gross national product fell nearly 45 per cent in the 15 years after the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries quadrupled prices in 1973, partly because of more efficient fuel use. But OPEC policy now is to keep prices low and stimulate a recovery in oil demand, and BP says it wants to be successful.

Energy use in the West grew in step with GNP in 1988 for the first time in many years, BP reports.

Oman signs loan contract

MANAMA, Bahrain, June 28, (AP): Oman today signed a contract for a \$500-million loan arranged by the Bahrain-based Gulf International Bank along with the Chase Investment Bank Ltd., to help finance its third five-year development plan that ends in 1990.

The loan is provided through a syndication of 39 Western, Asian and Arab banks, according to a Gulf International Bank statement.

Major gas find boosts Oman's hopes of new strikes

MUSCAT, Oman, June 28, (AP): The state-run oil company today reported Oman's biggest gas strike in 22 years at a depth where geologists had not expected to hit paydirt, boosting hopes that more large gas fields will be found.

The discovery in the Saib Nihayda region near the Saudi Arabian border is the second major oil industry find announced this week in the sultanate on the southern tip of the Arabian peninsula.

The Petroleum Development Oman Co. said in its Al Fahal publication that recoverable reserves were provisionally estimated at 10 billion cubic metres, making it Oman's fifth largest gas field.

It is the biggest since the Maradi Hurayma field was discovered in 1967 with reserves of 11 billion cubic metres.

The new gas find at a depth of around 4,000 metres (13,128 feet)

was a surprise because drillers had not expected to hit anything at that depth.

Al Fahal quoted PDO exploration manager Peter de Ruiter as saying that the gas was discovered after he decided to drill an exploration well past a planned cutoff depth of 3,700 metres (12,143 feet).

He said the sand strata in which the gas was found stretched down to 4,500 metres (14,769 feet), a depth at which

neither oil nor gas has been found before.

"It was a real surprise. We decided to go deeper hoping for the best, and we got the best," De Ruiter said.

That raised the possibility that deeper exploration wells would also strike. Al Fahal said the drilling programme has already been changed.

Gas is already being produced from shallow strata in Saib Nihayda at a depth of 1,000

metres (3,282 feet). Recoverable reserves from these are estimated at 35 billion cubic metres.

Oman produces 500,000 barrels of oil a day and oil exports are the country's economic backbone. The sultanate is not a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Oman launched a gas exploration programme five years ago when the oil market weakened. By last year, gas reserves were

estimated at around 3 trillion cubic metres, a figure which may be revised in light of the new strike.

Yesterday, state petroleum officials confirmed a new commercial oilfield in a Japanese concession in western Oman.

The Dafeel field is scheduled to go on stream in 1990 with a production rate of 8,000-10,000 barrels a day and a lifespan of 17 years.

Exploration is being carried

out by Japex Oman, a consortium of four Japanese companies, under a production-sharing agreement with the Omani government, which gets 86.5 per cent of the oil produced.

In the Yibal gasfield, workers are battling to plug a leak which caused an explosion and set a well ablaze.

Officials said it would take two weeks to drill a new well near the blowout in a bid to divert the gas and cap the burning well.



Hussain and Mordvinov sign the agreement.

Joint venture in oil progressing

Kuwait, Moscow sign economic agreement

By Jadranka Porter
Arab Times staff

KUWAIT and the Soviet Union yesterday signed a protocol for economic and technical co-operation with both sides pledging to work together on projects in oil and gas, electricity and agriculture.

The agreement, signed by Soviet Deputy Minister for Foreign Economic Relations Vladimir Mordvinov and Kuwaiti Petroleum Corporation Chairman Abdul Razaq Mulla Hussain, also paves the way for Kuwait investment in the Soviet Union and closer ties between the two countries' banks.

A team of Russian and Kuwaiti experts are currently working on a legal framework for agreements for the mutual protection of investments and double taxation to be signed at the end of summer, Mordvinov told a news conference after the signing ceremony.

The Soviets have also pledged to help Kuwait fight desertification with expert advice from a research institute in the Soviet republic of Turkmenia.

Yesterday's accord, which

capped the meeting of the first standing Kuwaiti-Soviet committee for economic and technical co-operation, comes in the wake of a similar agreement signed last February by the oil ministers of both countries. In both accords the two sides pledge to develop a network of ties through joint ventures in energy, banking, construction and trade in signatory countries as well as in the Third World states.

Mordvinov reported progress in the Soviet-Kuwaiti joint venture in oil, the most advanced area of co-operation so far, with immediate plans for the joint development of the Bahra field in Kuwait and another one in the central part of the Soviet Union.

The joint exploration of the Bahra field, to be financed by Kuwait, will begin by the end of the year after Kuwaitis provide the technical details and the Soviets, who will bring in their own technology, report on the cost of the operation.

Parallel to this development the Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company (KUPPEC) is expected to select within a month an oil field in the Soviet Union, for drilling. The project

in the Soviet Union will be jointly financed by KUPPEC and the Soviet Oil Ministry.

The co-operation in oil industry, which received a boost when Soviets won last year a contract for the construction of four oil desalination stations in Almadia, will also include a trade exchange in oil derivatives and ammonia.

Speaking of other common projects, Mordvinov said, talks are under way for a joint construction of hotels and polyclinics in Moscow and other areas of the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Union welcomes Kuwaiti investment, he said adding that Moscow is devising regulations to guarantee the foreign investors remittance of any profits. Provisions to that effect would be included in the agreement with Kuwait for the mutual protection of investments.

Mordvinov explained that Soviet enterprises are free to act independently on foreign markets and can form joint ventures with Kuwaitis for projects in the Third World. Priority in such ventures would be given to projects in oil industry, construction and commerce.

Fao crude may make inroads in Japan

TOKYO, June 28, (Reuters): Iraq may gain in its market share at the expense of other Middle East producers if its new crude oil proves as attractive as it initially appears, Japanese refiners said.

At least four Japanese oil firms have agreed to buy spot cargoes of Iraq's Fao blend and would consider term contracts after assessing results of first refinery runs, they said.

Officials of Iraq's State Oil Marketing Organisation (SOMO), who were in Tokyo last week, told Japanese companies the export capacity of Fao blend was currently 150,000 to 200,000 barrels per day (BPD).

Laboratory tests carried out by Japanese oil companies showed Fao blend was slightly better quality than Saudi Arabia's Arabian Heavy crude but with a marginally heavier metal content, refiners said.

SOMO has sold the oil to Japanese firms at the same price as they pay for Arabian heavy, which is 90 cents a barrel below the average of Oman and Dubai spot prices.

"These are sort of test cargoes. The purpose is to assess the crude on a full scale," said one refiner.

"The price is good, therefore, if it's good quality the volume will be increased," said another.

Japanese refiners said Fao blend could substitute for Arabian heavy or medium, Iranian heavy or Kuwaiti crude.

Iraq's brisk sales of Fao blend to Japan this month had already put pressure on other Middle East producers, they said.

Kuwait Petroleum Corp (KPC) quickly capitulated to Japan's insistence on unchanged third-quarter prices after seeing the results of SOMO's visit to Tokyo last week, they said. Kuwait sells its crude oil to Japan at 50 cents a barrel below the average of Oman and Dubai spot prices.

The National Iranian Oil Corp (NIOC) also agreed to keep its prices unchanged in the third quarter.

Iranian light prices have been fixed at the average of spot Oman prices, and Iranian heavy prices at 15 cents below the average of spot Dubai prices.

UK shares hit fresh post-crash high

Dollar ends firmer

LONDON, June 28, (Reuters): The dollar ended firmer in Europe today after a day of choppy trading while London shares hit a fresh post-crash high.

London's financial markets were hit for the second week running by a one-day transport strike and many dealers left their trading consoles early to beat the rush home.

The dollar weathered pressure caused by rumours of central bank intervention and from negative US economic data to bounce back because of continuing high demand for the currency.

The US government's index of leading indicators, a key barometer of future trends in the world's biggest economy, fell 1.2 per cent in May, the biggest drop in 1-1/2 years and a sharper decline than economists had forecast.

"Once the dust settled on the indicators, the dollar was again very well bid," said Jim McGroarty, a dealer at Greenwich capital markets in New York.

Currency dealers in Frankfurt said market attention was now firmly focused on Thursday's meeting of the Bundesbank council for the next movement in currency markets.

Some traders expect the West German Central Bank to raise key interest rates to tackle inflation but others say they will stay the same.

The dollar closed in London at 1.9625 West German marks and 142.75 Japanese yen after ending yesterday at 1.9525 and 141.10. London share prices closed well off the day's highs but still at their highest since the global stock markets crash of October 1987.

The Financial Times-Stock Exchange index of 100 leading shares ended 3.0 points up 2,209.4.

"It's a bit of a freak day because of the rail strike, although on the whole business does not seem to have been affected too much," one equity trader said.

Nick Glydon, technical

analyst at brokers Kleinwort Benson, said: "The market is technically overbought ... but given the substantial level of institutional liquidity I would tend to be a buyer on any dips."

French shares ended down in Paris after Wall Street weakened in early business in New York.

West German shares closed higher as the Frankfurt market resumed a recent rally, dealers said.

Wall Street shares were depressed by the US leading indicators for May and the Dow Jones industrial average stood 9.30 points lower at 2,517.07 by midday in New York.

Earlier in Tokyo, the world's biggest stock market, prices plunged on reports, later denied, that new Prime Minister Sonosuke Uno planned to resign over alleged sex scandal.

The Nikkei Average dropped 223.61 points or 0.67 per cent to close at 33,245.60.

Gold weakened to close in London around \$375.25 an ounce after \$376.75 yesterday.

Plant shutdown blow to industry

Chain reaction seen

WASHINGTON, June 28, (AP): The shutdown of the Rancho Seco nuclear plant in California — the first forced by a voter initiative — is adding to the industry's ills, but analysts doubt it will set off a chain reaction of plant closures in the United States.

Rancho Seco began shutting down just hours after residents in the Sacramento municipal utility district voted June 6 to pull the plug on a 15-year-old plant that suffered a history of expensive breakdowns and poor management.

Anti-nuclear groups hailed the ballot result, and some suggested it could prove a catalyst for citizen initiatives against other nuclear plants. But early indications are that the fallout will be much less dramatic.

"The circumstances with Rancho Seco were unique to Rancho Seco, so we're not going to have a domino effect," said Scott Denman, director of the Safe Energy Communication Council, a Washington-based group opposed to nuclear power.

He added, however, that because it focused on the economics of nuclear power, the Rancho Seco campaign may lead to broader interest in alternative sources of energy, such as solar power, and efforts to make more efficient use of all energy supplies.

Industry supporters say Rancho Seco was an aberration, noting that 15 other citizen initiatives against nuclear power failed. They see no indication that the public wants to throw out the energy source.

"We think that Rancho Seco was not a vote against nuclear power, but a vote against the way that plant was run by upper management," said Scott Peters, a spokesman for the US Council for Energy Awareness, a pro-nuclear group.

The US nuclear industry has been stagnating for more than a decade, partly because of public wariness about safety and partly because of economic problems. No utility has ordered a new nuclear plant since 1978, and many nuclear supporters agree with critics that no orders are likely before the turn of the century.

"I don't know of a single chief executive officer in our industry that would bet his company on a nuclear plant," said William McCollam Jr., president of the Edison Electric Institute, a trade group of privately owned utilities.

He called the Rancho Seco vote "not good for the public perception of nuclear power."

Many nuclear plants are run efficiently, but those that are not have blackened the industry's image.

Rancho Seco had a poor record, producing less than 40 per cent of the electricity that would have resulted from unfailing year-round operation — far below the industry average. The utility district had to double its rates over the past four years to pay for plant improvements that cost more than the reactor itself.

Rocky road ahead for monetary union

MADRID, Spain, June 28, (AP): With British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher pledged to defend Britain's sovereign interests as the 12-nation European Economic Community embarks on a programme for closer economic and monetary union, a rocky road still lies ahead.

But in the view of many participants at this week's EEC summit, the onus lay on a long way toward shedding her image as the reluctant European — adopting a more conciliatory approach and making concessions which just days ago seemed unthinkable.

"I give thanks for Margaret Thatcher," Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, who holds the community's rotating presidency, said at the end of the two-day summit yesterday.

"If you had asked me a week ago, I would not have believed that this would have been possible," he said.

After hours of hard bargaining marked by sharp exchange between Thatcher and French President Francois Mitterrand, the most enthusiastic supporter of monetary union, the community agreed to introduce on July 1 next year an initial stage of a programme for closer economic ties.

Thatcher succeeded in blocking an automatic follow-on to two subsequent stages leading to a central bank and a single currency for the community.

But she did not kill off the currency and bank proposals, which the two other largest community members of the community, France and West Germany, regard as a key part of the drive toward a single market. It is due to be set up in December 1992 when all trade barriers within the EEC are dismantled.

WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

SYDNEY, June 28, (Reuters): The Australian share market closed higher as market leader BHP received strong support head of its year profit result due on Friday. The All Ordinaries rose 10.6 to 1,519.0.

TOKYO: Shares plunged on reports, later denied, that Prime Minister Sonosuke Uno would resign because of a sex scandal. The Nikkei dropped 223.61 to close at 33,245.60, above its previous low.

HONG KONG: Stocks closed firmer after a day of thin, featureless trade and the Hang Seng index rose 12.40 to 2,245.05 on

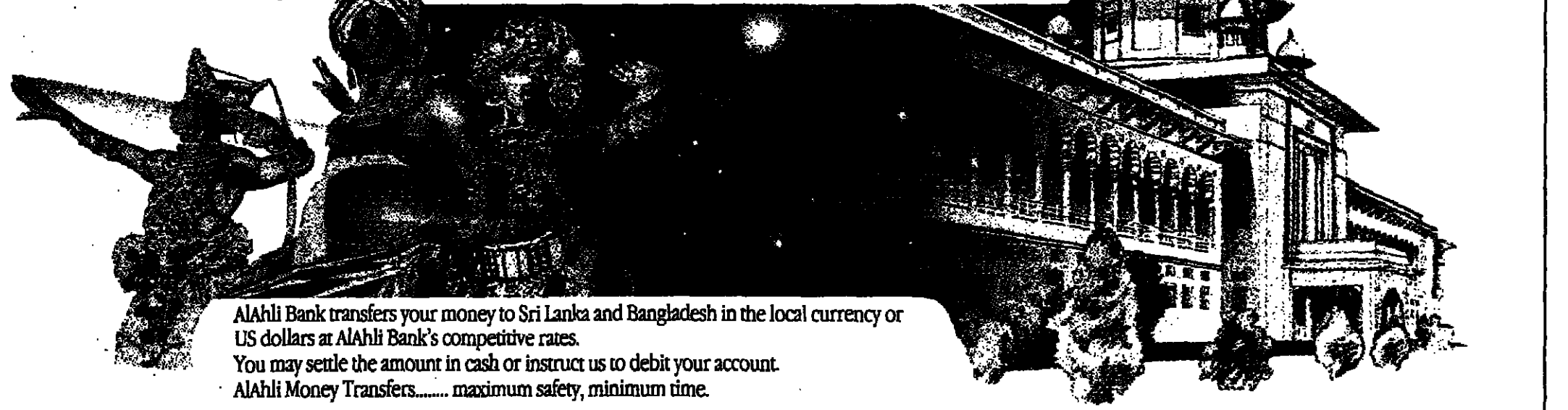
slightly higher turnover.

BOMBAY: Heavy buying by state-owned financial institutions for the second day running helped shares overcome lethargy and post big gains. Nocl shot up Rs42.5 to 1,030 but Tata Steel fell 15 to 1,465.

ZURICH: Shares closed higher in moderate trading. The All-Share Swiss index rose 11.3 to 1,103.2.

PARIS: Shares were narrowly mixed after a very quiet morning session. The 50-share price indicator was down 0.10 per cent at midday, the same level as the morning start.

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Nicholas Brady

Progress on Brady's debt plan sought

WASHINGTON, June 28, (AP): Banking regulators threatened today to raise reserve requirements of major US banks with loans to less developed countries unless they see progress on Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady's plan for reducing Third World debt.

William Taylor, director of banking supervision and regulation for the Federal Reserve System, told a House Banking Subcommittee the Fed has been disappointed at the lack of progress since Brady announced the plan in early March.

"Without further co-operation between borrowers and lenders," Taylor said, "credit quality will continue to deteriorate as more countries become unable or unwilling to service their bank debts," Taylor said. "In such an event, further significant increases in reserves will clearly be required."

US commercial banks now hold \$70.7 billion of some \$340 billion in troubled Third World loans but have set aside reserves of only \$23 billion to cover them, most of it in the past two years. Brady's plan calls for reducing that total debt by about 20 per cent. It asks private banks to effectively forgive a portion of the loans in exchange for promises that government-backed international lending agencies such as the World Bank will guarantee interest payments on the remaining balances.

The plan, however, has run into stiff opposition from the commercial banks in its first major test with Mexico, which sought a 55 per cent reduction in the nearly \$70 billion it owes private creditors.

KD deposit rates climb

KUWAIT, June 28, (Reuters): Kuwaiti dinar deposit rates climbed in active trade today several forces converged to drain the market of funds, dealers said. They said banks appeared to have purchased a large portion of today's \$50 million dinar (\$510 million) issue of 91-day treasury bills.

The bills carried an average yield of 8.98 per cent, the highest since the Central Bank eight weeks ago jacked up rates by around one per cent.

Liquidity was also being reduced as expatriate workers, streaming out of the country on annual holidays, withdrew money to take home.

Dealers added that the monthly salary payments that began flowing into banks late last week had finally worked their way through the system, tightening the market still further.

Tomorrow's bid was at 11 per cent compared to 8-1/2 yesterday. Spot next and one week rose around one point to 11 10.

In the fixed periods one month was steady at around 10 9-1/2, while three months gained 1/4 point to the same level.

The Central Bank adjusted its dinar to dollar exchange rate to 0.2964/56 from 0.2953/66 yesterday.

Bank chief resigns

PRETORIA, June 28, (Reuters): South Africa's Central Bank Governor Gerhard de Kock, the man known as apartheid's banker, resigned today because of ill health.

Announcing the resignation President P.W. Botha said in a statement that De Kock, 63, would be succeeded from November 1 by Chris Stals, South Africa's director-general of finance, which is the top treasury post.

"The cabinet has put on record its appreciation for Dr De Kock's valuable services for South Africa," Botha said.

The statement gave no further details. The scholarly, urbane De Kock is credited with masterminding a 1987 debt rescheduling pact which offered South Africa an economic lifeline two years after foreign banks cut off credit because of mounting black anti-apartheid unrest.

Bahrain to house biggest single-site aluminium smelter

MANAMA, Bahrain, June 28, (AP): Aluminium Bahrain, the largely government-owned smelting concern, announced today a \$1.3-billion expansion which will more than double its annual output capacity within three years to 460,000 metric tons.

ALBA said the expansion, involving the setting up of the aluminium industry's largest ever smelter, would be completed by July 1992.

The announcement from ALBA said completion of the project would make the Gulf island state house the biggest single-site smelter outside the Soviet bloc.

The project is the second-phase expansion of the smelter, which recently went on line with an additional 45,000 metric tons of annual primary ingot output. It raised ALBA's capacity to 225,000 metric tons.

"The (second-phase) expansion effectively comprises a new plant built alongside the existing facilities," ALBA chief executive Gudvin Tofte said in a prepared statement.

"State-of-the-art technology will be used throughout...creating one of the world's most modern smelters."

He noted that Aluminium Pechiney, a unit of the French government-controlled

metals concern, has signed a contract with ALBA to supply technology and that talks are in their final stages with Bechtel Corp. of the United States to provide engineering services.

ALBA has been in operation for almost two decades, as Bahrain speedily moved to diversify its economy after its oil resources began depleting. Saudi Arabia and a group of European investors have small investments in the plant.

Besides the addition of the new potline to the ALBA plant, the project will also involve construction of new power plants

to boost output to 800 megawatts from 480 megawatts.

Tofte projected the expansion would create 400 new jobs for Bahrainis bringing the plant's total workforce to 1,800 by mid-1992.

"With a world-class smelter and operating costs that are amongst the lowest in the world, ALBA will be a force to be reckoned with in the years to come," Tofte said.

Bahrain's aluminium smelter is one of two existing in the Gulf region, although two other new smelter projects are in various stages of implementation.

US-Japan reach telecom accord

WASHINGTON, June 28, (Reuters): US and Japanese negotiators agreed early today on American access to the lucrative Japanese mobile phone market, averting retaliatory measures by the United States.

The agreement, reached at 0830 GMT, ended marathon negotiations between Japan's special negotiator, Ichiro Ozawa, and the Deputy US Trade Representative, S. Linn Williams.

Washington had threatened to take retaliatory measures against Japan if the dispute was not settled by July 10.

A US spokeswoman, Christina McCown, said there would be a formal signing ceremony later this morning.

The talks had been temporarily broken off yesterday and were resumed later the same day at the request of US Trade Representative Carla Hills.

The world's largest mobile phone maker, Motorola Incorporated of the United States, had been seeking to introduce its small hand-held cellular phones into the Japanese market, Japanese officials said.

Industry economists said the Japanese market is still at an embryonic stage, but is expected to grow to four million units by the year 2000 from the present 200,000.

The sticking point in the negotiations was that Motorola wanted to sell its ultra-light, 10.7 ounce (300-gramme) micro hand-held telephone without an adapter to meet the Japanese sys-

Stable exchange rates planned

Japan the largest US investor

NEW YORK, June 28, (KUNA): Japan has replaced Britain as the largest investor in the United States last year with almost \$200 billion in fixed assets, the Commerce Department said today.

For the first time, non-bank US affiliates of companies owned by the Japanese accounted for the largest share of both assets and sales, the study said.

Such affiliates of many foreign companies continued expanding employment, assets and sales throughout the year, primarily by acquiring US companies, the study said.

Total affiliates' assets increased 11 per cent to \$926 billion, with \$622 billion in goods and the rest in services.

The foreign direct investment was concentrated in California, with \$42 billion in gross property, plant and equipment; Texas, \$41 billion and New York, \$23 billion.

Intervene

Meanwhile, the Governor of the Bank of Japan Satoshi Sumita said the central bank would intervene in defence of the yen whenever the need arose.

Sumita said at a press conference in Tokyo today Japan will co-operate with the seven industrialised states to secure stable exchange rates, in accordance with the economic basics of each country.

The group, he added, had agreed on exerting concerted efforts to rectify the present course of the US currency.

Attention must be paid to currency exchange markets which rapidly respond to any incentives for purchase of the US dollar, he said.

Elaborating, he noted that recent dollar hike was due to political instability in Japan instigated by the sexual scandal involving Premier Souseke Uno.

He also noticed evidences of slow US economy such as recent statements relating to consumer expenditure and housing investments in the US.

tem, Japanese officials said.

No information was immediately available on how that problem was solved.

Japanese officials had argued they were not blocking the US

product because it could be sold

with modifications.

But Motorola did not want to

modify its product because its

marketing edge of lightness

would be damaged.

Dar es Salaam responding to IMF medicine

Tanzania's economy picks up

DAR ES SALAAM, June 28, (Reuters): Tanzania, once known as the sick man of Africa, is responding well to IMF medicine and a transfusion of Western aid. Latest bulletins say the patient is showing definite signs of recovery.

The East African state has just completed a three-year overhaul which has breathed new life into the country's stagnant economy, pleasing Western donors and ordinary Tanzanians alike.

Since President Ali Hassan Mwinyi abandoned the orthodox socialist economic policies of his predecessor Julius Nyerere to launch a market-oriented economic recovery programme in June 1986, industrial production has nearly doubled.

Maize and cotton production has also shot up thanks to higher producer prices, good weather and Mwinyi's decision to allow private traders to compete with the state-run National Milling Corporation in marketing the grain crop.

Economic growth has accelerated from less than two per cent in the July 1985-June 1986 financial year to an estimated four per cent in 1988-89 and Mwinyi is promising six per cent growth in 1989-90. But diplomats and monetary officials say the government's failure to implement a series of structural reforms agreed with the International Mon-

etary Fund (IMF) has produced severe inflationary pressures.

They accuse Mwinyi of failing to curb heavy borrowing by loss-making state companies and delaying the promised reform of Tanzania's cumbersome state-run banking system.

But they are still full of praise for his achievements.

"The programme is a resounding success," IMF deputy director Richard Erb said during a visit to Tanzania in May.

Tanzania's once empty shops are brimming with consumer goods and Dar es Salaam's recently repaired streets are choked with new Japanese cars, imported by a new class of wealthy entrepreneurs.

More importantly, trucks, fertilisers, pesticides and spare parts for industrial machinery are also readily available to boost the output of cash crops such as coffee, cotton and tea.

This represents a dramatic turnaround from the early 1980s when even the most basic commodities were in short supply.

At the time, the economy was hamstrung by state controls on all aspects of production and marketing, low incentives for farmers and a chronic shortage of foreign exchange to buy essential imports.

Economy fully recovered: Mahathir

KUALA LUMPUR, June 28, (Reuters): Malaysia's economy has fully recovered from a 1985 recession and will strengthen further because it has managed to reduce its dependence on commodities, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohamed said today.

"The economy has fully recovered from the vagaries of the recession," Mahathir told parliament in a review of the Malaysia's 1986-90 development plan.

He said gross domestic product (GDP), which measures total national output and services, posted real growth of 8.7 per cent in 1988 against earlier official estimates of 8.1 per cent.

He forecast GDP growth for 1989 at 7.3 per cent and 6.7 per cent for 1990. It would average 5.8 per cent for 1986-90 against a target of five per cent.

Malaysia's economy grew 5.2 per cent in 1987 and 1.2 in 1986 after shrinking one per cent in 1985 because of a fall in the prices of major commodities — rubber, palm oil and tin.

Mahathir said the South-East Asian nation had diversified its economy into manufacturing to reduce its dependence on revenue from commodities.

The private sector played a key role in bringing about this structural change, Mahathir said, adding that foreign investors had shown keen interest after Malaysia allowed them to hold 100 per cent equity and promised other incentives.

He said state agencies will be privatised in 1989 and 1990 to stimulate growth of construction and manufacturing in the private sector.

Prices up in major industrial countries

WASHINGTON, June 28, (AP): Inflation has been rising for over a year in the world's major industrial countries, according to figures compiled by the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

Prices to consumers rose at an increased rate last year over the year before in the United States, Japan, West Germany, Britain and Italy. Though there was a dip in the rate of increase between 1987 and 1988 in France and Canada, it has been going up there too since the end of last summer.

These are the seven countries which hold annual summit meetings to co-ordinate their policies and hold inflation down. President George Bush will attend his first conference in Paris on July 14.

The Organisation for Economic Co-opera-

tion and Development (OECD), the "rich man's club" of 24 industrialised countries, predicts small rises for the United States and Japan this year and next. It says the US rate will go to 5 per cent in 1989 and 5.25 per cent in 1990, while Japan will go to 1.5 per cent in 1988 and 2.25 in 1990.

Governments watch their inflation from quarter to quarter and month to month. They adjust the rates for seasonal variations and calculate to give a rate for the entire year. CIA statisticians then compare the results. The CIA's latest comparison, dated June 16, has just been made available to reporters.

The rate of increase declined in May in the four countries which have so far reported — the United States, Japan, West Germany and Italy. But analysts attach only minor impor-

tance to the figures from a single month.

The highest rates have been in Britain. There the rate was an annual 8.5 per cent in the winter quarter of 1988. It dipped in the early months of this year but was back to 10.5 per cent in April.

Japan showed the lowest rate, as usual. The inflation rate has been dropping there since 1981, though the descent has not been regular. In the first three months of this year prices actually dropped by 2.2 per cent, a rare occurrence anywhere these days. They have been rising again since March, with a sudden large spur in April.

US prices rose by 4.1 per cent last year and may have peaked at an annual rate of 8.1 per cent in the month of April, dipping to 7 per cent in May.

Major cities remain tense

Hoteliers predict gloom for tourism

BEIJING, June 28, (Reuters): Hoteliers and diplomats say it will be many months before foreign tourists, shunning China after the bloody military operation against pro-democracy protesters, start coming back in large numbers.

Tourist hotels and China's most famous attractions, the Great Wall and the forbidden city in Beijing, are empty of foreigners who thronged them just two months ago.

"People just don't want to go to a country where there is martial law," said Max Wilhelm, manager of Beijing's Great Wall Hotel. "They don't want to be harassed or endangered by gun-toting soldiers."

Foreign businessmen have begun trickling back to China but only a tiny number of tourists have arrived since martial law was declared in areas of Beijing on May 20 and the Army killed pro-democracy demonstrators in the city two weeks later.

The government says tourists are welcome to return, but Beijing and other major cities remain tense with troops patrolling the streets of the capital and a purge of dissidents continuing nation-wide.

In central Beijing yesterday scores of soldiers with automatic weapons sealed off a major intersection for several hours and appeared to be searching an apartment building.

A jeep sped away carrying soldiers with pistols drawn and at least one man was being held in the back with his head down.

"This is just the kind of thing that scares foreign tourists away," said a foreign diplomat who was passing by. "Don't think they'll be coming back for a while."

Wilhelm said occupancy in his 890-room hotel had dropped to about 25 per cent compared to the 70 or 80 per cent that would be normal at this time of year.

He said the hotel was cutting the salaries of local staff by 30 per cent, closing some facilities and trying to cut maintenance costs in response to the drop in business.

Peter Hierzi, first deputy general manager at Beijing's 450-room Jianguo Hotel, said occupancy was about 35 per cent compared to the usual 80 per cent.

He said the Jianguo's 300-room sister hotel in the Central City of Xian, site of the famous Terracotta Warriors, had only one or two guests.

"Tour operators don't want to send people to China because of possible legal problems," Hierzi said. Operators fear they could be sued if their clients are injured in China.

Industry executives say large numbers of tourists will not return until the United States and other countries withdraw advice to their citizens to avoid China.

"Martial law has to be lifted and foreigners have to be convinced that China is safe," Wilhelm said.

The turmoil has come at a particularly bad time for the tourism industry because the rapid growth of recent years has sparked a boom in hotel construction.

Economists say a drop in tourism could have a serious effect on the economy.



Sheikh Ahmed

Rate hike cuts capital outflow

Strategy ready to deal with EEC

LONDON, June 28, (KUNA): A prominent Kuwaiti banker said in an interview here yesterday the Kuwaiti banking sector had recovered from the 1982 local stock market crash and he expected Kuwait to emerge soon as a leading financial centre in the region.

The chairman of the Burgan Bank, Sheikh Ahmed Abdullah Al Ahmed Al Sabah, added that Kuwaiti banks had prepared a strategy for dealing with a unified European Economic Community after 1992 when the 12 EEC members knock down trade barriers among them.

Sheikh Ahmed, who made the remarks in an interview published here in the London-based Saudi "Al Sharaq Al Awwat" daily, stressed that Kuwaiti banks were now much healthier after the settlement of difficult debts which resulted from the stock market crash.

He also said of a "qualitative leap" in all the country's economic sectors that would help Kuwait to make its presence felt as a financial centre in the region.

Sheikh Ahmed, who is also the Burgan Bank's managing director, said an interest rate hike in recent months in Kuwait significantly reduced the outflow of capital.

Kuwait, which boasts an open economy, has never been isolated from economic developments in the capitalist and socialist worlds, he said.

The Kuwaiti government has in recent years allowed the private sector to take a share in the services sector, Sheikh Ahmed said, referring to privately-owned hospitals and the Mobile Telephone Company.

UAL stock jumps

CHICAGO, June 28, (AP): UAL Corp's stock jumped higher today, fuelled by a report that a group led by Texas billionaire Robert M. Bass had acquired up to three per cent of the company, which owns United Airlines.

Bass spokeswoman Susan Hawkins declined comment on the report in the national newspaper USA today, and UAL spokesman Joe Hopkins said the company would not comment on the stock activity.

In New York Stock Exchange trading, UAL rose \$6.75 to \$146 a share. The jump followed gains of \$1.75 on Monday and 15.50 for all of last week.

Analysts said speculators have taken an intense interest in airline companies following an international investor group's deal last week to buy NWA Inc., the parent of Northwest Airlines, in a deal valued at \$3.64 billion.

The airline industry's strongest performers — including American, Delta, United and USAIR — may have much higher value than their stock prices indicate, said analyst Louis Marcussano of Janney Montgomery Scott Inc. in Philadelphia.

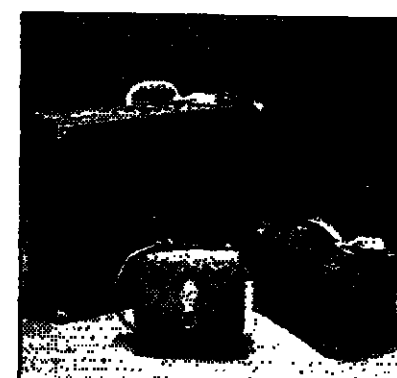
Gulf dockyard inaugurated

NICOSIA, June 28, (Reuters): The first dockyard built by Iran was inaugurated at the Gulf port of Bushshehr yesterday, the Iranian news agency IRNA said.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said small vessels could be repaired at the dockyard built by Iran's Navy personnel.

It quoted Navy Commander Rear Admiral Mohammad Hosein Malekzadegan as saying Iran had maintained at least 10 naval vessels and between 3,000 and 5,000 sailors at sea at any one time since the 1979 Islamic revolution.

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Two polar bear cubs enjoy a spot lunch with their mother after a playful swim on a sunny afternoon at the Vienna zoo.

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We just enjoy the comfort and fun,
Not knowing that starvation has begun.

Do you know who invited this day?
Or why starvation is not far away?
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We waste our money
And spend it foolishly.
Caring not for the helpless poor,
Who beg for money from door to door.

So come and join my happy game,
To put an end to this horrible pain.
"Think twice before you buy"
And save the people that are about to die.

Amina Reza,
Indian School, Sahmija.

Firsts and lasts

The first and last hours of many mayflies' lives fall in the same narrow time span. The first premium bond draw was held in June, 1957. The machine which selects the winner is called 'Ernie' which stands for 'Electronic Random Number Indicator Equipment'.

The first time English ships were insured at sea was in 1508.

Continued from
the last week

They are used for shearing through food, and are called *carnassial teeth*.

The rabbit is a typical example of a herbivore animal that gnaws its food. Its incisors have very sharp edges, and are used for biting off small pieces of food. Behind the incisors is a long gap, called the *diastema*. It is there so that folds of skin from the cheeks can be pushed into the mouth to stop the food from passing farther back. This means that the animal does not necessarily have to swallow the material that it bites off during gnawing. The premolars and molars have fairly flat tops and are used for grinding the food down before it is swallowed.

Mammals and their young

COMPARED with fish, amphibians, and reptiles, mammals produce relatively few young at any one time. This is partly because the young are kept inside the mother for some time, and it would therefore be difficult to produce large numbers of

become adults.

Mammals produce young after a male has fertilized a female. The egg inside her body grows into an *embryo*. When the embryo has developed further, it is called a *foetus*. The length of time between fertilization and the birth of the young is called the *gestation period*. This period varies, usually according to the size of the animal. A mouse has a gestation period of only 19 days. Dogs can take 63 days, human beings take about 270 days (9 months), and elephants take nearly two years to produce their young.

At birth, the young have all the characteristics of their parents except that they are smaller and helpless. The parents continue to care for the young after they are born. Again, this period of parental care varies. Young mice are born in a very helpless condition. They have no fur and their eyes are closed. But within weeks they develop into fully grown adults.

Limbs and movement

The limbs of mammals all follow the same basic plan. The upper part of a limb has one bone, and the middle part has two bones. The lower part of the limb has a number of small bones, which divide at the end of the limb to form five digits (fingers or toes).

Dogs and cats have limbs that clearly follow this basic plan. These animals walk on all four limbs, and there is little difference between the front and hind limbs.

Humans have become adapted to walking on their hind limbs. There are therefore stronger and longer than the forelimbs, or arms. The hands of humans are different from those of all other mammals in one important way. The first digit, or thumb, is *opposed* to the rest of the hand. This enables objects to be held between the thumb and fingers.

Mammals that live in water appear to have limbs that are totally unlike the basic plan. But the flippers of whales and seals have bone structures that are similar to the limbs of all other mammals. The front limbs of a whale have short, thick bones in the upper parts. The digits are long, and the flipper is formed from skin



Zebras (above) live only on the grasslands of South and East Africa. The Sahara Desert prevents them from moving farther north. Koalas (right) are marsupials and they live only in the eucalyptus forest of Australia. They eat virtually nothing but eucalyptus leaves.



stretched over the digits.

Hoofed animals walk on the tips of the toes. This gives them *extra-long legs*, and enables them to run more quickly. But the number of toes in each limb has been greatly reduced. The horse has only one remaining digit, which has become thickened and elongated. The hoof at the end is really an enlarged toenail. The cow has only two digits on each foot, and like those of the horse, they are longer and thicker than the digits of other animals.

WHEN the giant reptiles became extinct, the mammals were able to evolve and spread into all the available habitats. At this time, the continents as we now know them were joined by land bridges.

The monotremes and marsupials were the first mammals to evolve. Shortly after this, the Australasian region became detached from the main land masses, and mammal evolution in this region did not progress very much further.

In other parts of the world the true mammals evolved, and they were more successful than the marsupials.

In South America the peaceful plant-eating marsupials were challenged by carnivorous placental mammals which swept down from North America like an invading army.

But the South American marsupials were not really wiped out by these animals. It was man who dealt their death blow. *Glyptodon* and *Megatherium* both survived

the onslaught of the placentals, but they were no match for man and his cruel weapons. As a result, except for a few marsupials in South and North America, they are now limited entirely to Australasia.

Elsewhere the mammals evolved rapidly. Before the present continents were formed, 26 orders of true mammals had populated the world. Modern mammals belong to only 16 of these orders (the rest are extinct), and the representatives of these orders that we see today have become well adapted to their environments.

For example, the polar bear has thick fur to keep out the cold, and its white colouring provides camouflage against the snow. Camels are an example of animals that have adapted to a hot, dry climate. They are able to go for long periods without drinking, because they sweat very little and therefore lose water from their bodies very slowly. Many mammals live in more temperate climates. But in the areas most densely populated by human beings, only the smaller mammals have survived the competition. The largest wild mammals now found in Europe are deer and, in some places, bears and wolves.

Mammals have adapted to many different ways of life. They live in a wide variety of climates and have also become adapted to life above, upon, and below the ground — as well as in water. And one mammal — the bat — has

learned to fly. The bats mostly fly at night, and they rest during the day by hanging upside-down in caves or in trees.

Mammal homes

Tree homes

A large number of mammals live in the trees. Koala bears, opossums, and squirrels have sharp claws that help in climbing. Sloths hang from branches by their large claws. Monkeys and apes have hands and feet that can grasp branches, enabling them to swing from branch to branch.

Some marsupials and New World monkeys also have long prehensile (grasping) tails, which they can use as a fifth hand.

The 'flying' mammals live on or under the ground. All the hoofed animals, such as antelopes, horses, pigs, and rhinoceroses, spend their time roaming over the land. They sleep where they happen to be at the time.

Other animals that live above ground include many of the carnivores. But they may use caves or similarly well-protected dens, especially when they are breeding.

Some mammals make nests above ground. The dormouse builds a nest low down in a hedge or bush. It spends about 6 months hibernating there during the winter.

The harvest mouse is so light that it can climb a wheat stem without bending it. It builds a nest of straw grass among the wheat.

(Continued next week)



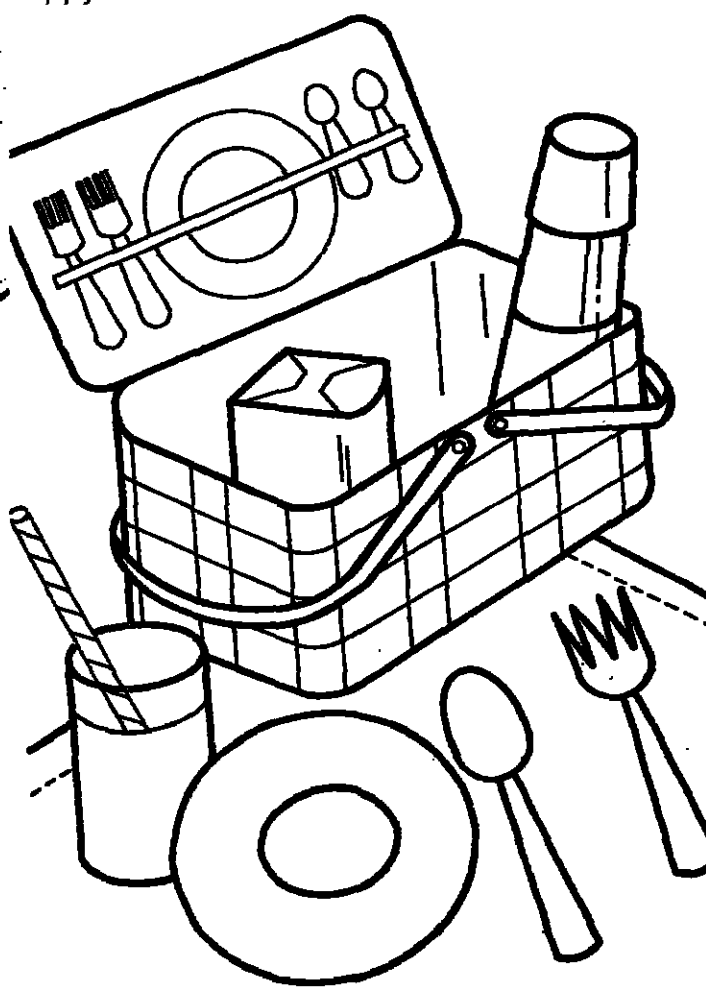
The badger digs an elaborate system of tunnels and chambers called a set. The set is continually extended as new generations of badgers are born. Famed for their tidiness, the badgers constantly clean out the set, removing old bedding material, food remains and other rubbish.

young in this way. In addition, the death rate of the young is relatively low. Most of the young survive to

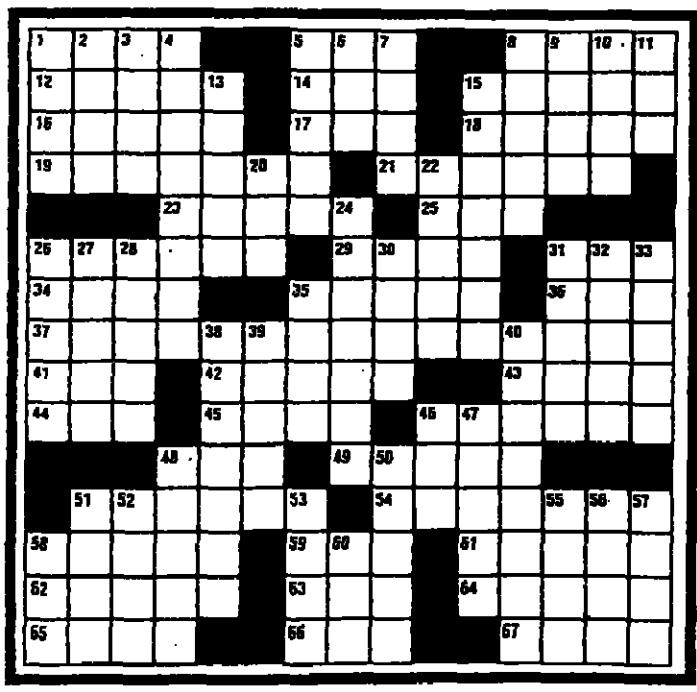
Colouring time

CAN you name what all the picnic objects shown in the picture are?

Do you like going on picnics? If you do, colour the picnic goodies in bold, bright and happy colours!



Crossword



- ACROSS
- 1 Lift one's hat in greeting
 - 5 Many times, to a bird
 - 8 Quen —?
 - 12 Sunlit world
 - 14 Letters on a dial
 - 15 Fragrant flower
 - 16 Wing-like
 - 17 Somerset stream
 - 18 Rene's parting word
 - 19 "— my prince will come"
 - 21 Au —
 - 23 Bids goodbye
 - 25 Part of a canine name
 - 26 Segar's comic hero
 - 29 Charged particles
 - 31 Dent or sect
 - 34 Jewish month
 - 35 Feeling of anxiety
 - 36 Hurried
 - 37 Parting words
 - 41 Night before
 - 42 Skip over
 - 43 French river

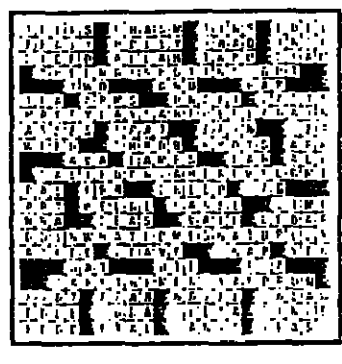
- DOWN
- 1 Buenos —
 - 2 Fjord city
 - 3 Humbug
 - 4 Parting word
 - 5 Delay
 - 6 Mend
 - 7 Gallery
 - 8 Port of Lebanon
 - 9 Et —
 - 10 Boxing name
 - 11 Old French coin
 - 13 Eleanor Roosevelt's column
 - 15 Hasta —
 - 20 Rd.
 - 22 Painter Max
 - 24 Indefinitely
 - 26 Ustinov
 - 27 Love of 26 A
 - 28 Whimpered
 - 30 Arch
 - 31 Practice
 - 32 Poker term
 - 33 Circle or tube
 - 35 Surrounded by
 - 38 Greet
 - 39 Remove oneself, at law
 - 40 Parting words
 - 48 Equal pref.
 - 49 Meet, like grade
 - 48 Activity
 - 50 Parting word
 - 51 And — bed
 - 52 Valhalla's chief
 - 53 Pleased
 - 55 French composer
 - 56 Inspects
 - 57 Pol source
 - 58 Concorde
 - 60 Concert

A policeman was escorting a prisoner to jail when his hat blew off. "Shall I run and get it for you?" asked the prisoner obligingly. "You must think I'm daft," said the constable. "You stand here and I'll get it."

"What makes you think the prisoner was drunk?" asked the magistrate. "Well, your honour," replied the arresting officer, "I saw him lift up a manhole cover and walk away with it, and when I asked him what it was for he said, 'I want to listen to it on my record-player'!"

Mr Smith and Mr Brown were up before the magistrate for fighting, and Smith was fined £20. "£20, your honour?" he said bitterly, "but I was just defending myself — Brown bit half my ear off!"

Solutions to Tuesday's
crosswords



Just for laughs!

"And you, Brown," said the magistrate, "are bound over to keep the peace for a year."

"Oh, I can't do that, your honour," replied Brown. "I threw it away!"

"Prisoner at the bar, you have pleaded not guilty although no fewer than six people claim to have seen you in the act of stealing the diamonds!"

"That's nothing: I can produce millions who didn't!"

"Why do you like being a policeman?"

"Because in my job the customer is never right!"

Another man went into the butcher's. He said, "I want a bird for Christmas."

The butcher said, "Duck?"

The man said, "Why? Are you going to throw it?"

These two dogs became penfriends. Then one day one of the dogs said to his owner, "I'm going to meet my friend up in London."

The owner said, "Do you know where you're going to meet him?"

The dog said, "Yes. Marrowbone Station."

These two cows told the farmer they wanted to write to each other. The farmer said, "Don't be stooped. You don't need to. You're in the same pen."

"We know that," said the cows. "We just want to be pen friends."

CHILDREN'S PARTY

June 30th and July 7th (Fridays)

DEAR YOUNG FRIEND,

Kermit, Donald Duck, Fozzie Bear, many other favourite playmates, puppet shows, swimming and painting competitions, prizes for the best carnival costumes, yummy food and a huge KIDDIE CASTLE promise to make it an entertaining day for the children.

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At La Palma lobby level

Tickets at: 2530000 Ext. 8039

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for child
under
12 years

KD. 5.000
for adults

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Amazing facts

THE earth is 5½ times denser than water.

Because her face had sunk inwards after the loss of her front teeth, Queen Elizabeth I used to appear in public with her mouth tufted with fine cloth.

The greatest recorded temperature variation in one day occurred at Browning, Montana, USA on 23rd-24th January 1916, when the temperature fell from 44 F to -56 F.

When the River Arno flooded Florence in 1966, it caused damage estimated at £57 million to the city's art treasures.

Don Quixote has been more widely translated than any other book with the exception of the Bible.

Red squirrels attract more fleas than other animals.

In 1972 a London boy scout tossed a pancake 2,105 times.

The cave swifts of Southeast Asia build nests out of saliva. The Chinese use these nests to make birds nest soup.

Alcohol cannot be absorbed into the bloodstream in quantities strong enough to kill germs.

A single drop of water contains one hundred billion billion atoms.

The oldest recorded age at which someone has had a surgical

operation is 111 years 105 days. Born July 25, 1894, died February 10, 1961, Henry Brett of Houston, Texas, underwent an operation on November 7, 1960.

In Perth, Australia, an 18-month old boy ate a 30 cm venomous snake. His mother arrived in time to pull the tail end from his mouth — he was unharmed.

There are more acres in Yorkshire than words in the Bible.

The longest vehicular tunnel in the world is the London Underground line from Morden to East Finchley; it is 17 miles 528 yards long.

A Polish mathematical wizard was employed by his government to replace 40 trained men and 40 calculating machines.

HUMOUR/ENTERTAINMENT

Third time lucky — perhaps

By Firoze Rangoonwalla

IT IS only because they are star sons that they are still in the industry and are getting so many chances. Any other actors in their place would have had to pack their bags and go — and many have indeed been forced to do that.

Some of the star sons failed even in their second round and are now facing the strange situation of a third come-back at such a young age. One example is Kunal Manoj Goswami. After a boyish role in the hit *Kranti*, he was prematurely pushed up as a regular hero in three to four films, with heroines as big as Sri Devi. But *Kalakar*, *Do Gulaab* and *Chungra* all failed to reach anywhere. Ricky specially made for his come-back also bombed.

Then he had to go through an agonising wait and went into other businesses like fast food, but that also made losses. Kunal's words portray the debacle: "Everything changes so suddenly. The same film people, who were running after you, back out slyly. Full fledged plans fizzle out within minutes". But Kunal had been walking the studio floors since he was very small. So he returned to his home grounds when he saw the new situation, where several films were taking on new actors.

This time papa Manoj did not launch any film for him to take him in his current vehicles, Clerk, Deshwasi etc. Kunal is now tall and mature. He began to attract producers. His third round in the industry has started with *Aakhri Baazi*, thought it has two other heroes Shatru and Govinda. The Hindi film has not done well though the Bengali version... *Mastana* is a hit. Now Kunal plans to play safe and keep himself on the big commercial bandwagon. His height and voice may help. But all depends on the results of *Vish Kaarya*, *Aag Aur Sehaag*, *Insaf ke Pujari*, *Paap Ki Kamai*, etc.

Another third-rounder is Kumar Gaurav. Papa Rajendra Kumar gave him a lavish break in *Love Story* and he became a teeny-bopper idol too. But his following films all flopped in a row. He soon lost his popularity. Then he was given a second chance through Naam directed by Mahesh Bhatt with his typical twists. But this, too, did not help beyond a couple of new offers, while Sanjay Dutt made a bigger "naam" through the film. Now Gaurav is staging a third come-back thru his father's *Jurrat*. It is a loose version of "untouchables", where three brave men try to wipe out a mafia gang. The main hero is



Will Kumar Gaurav wowed the audience this time — with Jurrat and a little help from friends like Amala?

Shatrughan Sinha but Gaurav has a powerful role and also two actresses, young Amala in a trendy image and mature Anita Raj. He also has B.R. Chopra's *Dharam Sankat* (but led by two other heroes) and other films like *Gang*, *Indrajit* (with Amitabh), plus the recently released *Gom*.

That way R.K.'s third son Rajeev Kapoor has also gone thru a barren career. He arrived in Ek Jahaan Hain Hum and was flooded with offers. Then he slumped, as a poor copy of uncle Shammi. Papa Raj took him in *Ram Teri Ganga Maali* but his role was overshadowed by Mandakini and her strip tease. At present he has one ready film *Mohabbat Mohabbat* with Jui Chawla but not a single distributor has bought it. Even his own brothers Randhir and Rishi don't consider him a cashable hero for *Hema*. Will he come back?

Madhuri: I'm not No.1

Q. After Tezab and Ram Lakhan, people have started comparing you to 'Sri Devi'. One non-film mag made a cover story that you are No.1. How do you feel about that?

A. Two hits cannot make any star. After one's films have proved very successful, there is usually a rush to sign you. They also offer bigger prices. But that is no guarantee of displacing anyone or coming to the peak. Changes keep coming, anyway.

Q. So who is No.1 according to you?

A. No one.

Q. Can we call Subhash Ghai your godfather or the person most important for your success?

A. Subhashji did help a lot in the early days. That way Rajshri Productions and Barjatya are the godfathers. They first put me on screen in *Abodh*. That time I really was 'abodh' (immature).

Q. Ghai also dropped you for a while?

A. He was thinking of my interests. The Karma role would have harmed my career. That way, you can say he dropped Meenakshi also. But I was given the biggest share in *Ram Lakhan*.

Q. N. Chandra has not accepted you in *Narsimha* after Tezab nor Ghai in *Saudagar*.

A. A good director need not get stuck to one heroine. It is bad for the movie also. This way both the artists and the directors get variety.

Q. Have you signed films with Amitabh?

A. Yes, *Shanakt* and *Bandhwa*. My roles are good and long.

Q. What is your ambition?

A. To do some great role some day, like Madhubala in *Mughal-e-Azam*.

Q. You are being compared a lot to Madhubala. Are you trying to revive her image?

A. May be in the outer appearance of innocence and spontaneous behaviour. But in acting, I would like to be myself.

Q. Only young heroes Aamir, Sanjay Dutt, Jackie suit you and not Mithun, Jeetendra, Vinod Khanna etc.?

A. With the exception of Vinod, I am now doing films with practically most heroes or I may take up films with them. All that counts is your role in the script.



Madhuri Dixit: 'Hey, I act with all the heroes!'

Behind the Screen

Vinod Khanna's dozen producers have to trail behind him like his entourage. They even attend his other shootings in order to get dates and other cooperation. And to think that when this he-man came back from the Ashram of Rajneesh, he had no work and ran after producers. It was the industry which sheltered him at that hour of need.

Films started like a marriage of convenience end up in smoke. *Divana Ashiq* was started by actor producer Gulshan Arora to oblige Farha who wanted to present her boyfriend Vinodoo with a film. Big leaflets and much publicity later, the splits started showing. Director B.R. Ishara left the film in disgust. Then Farha had the famous chicken

fight and left the (on reason of a bad lunch). Where will all this leave poor Vinodoo, son of Dara Singh?

An unusual ceremony of ending the "roza" after the holy Ramzan month was held by Chunky and his parents and brother. This was to promote inter-communal harmony. The special invitees were Akbar Khan and distributor Mansoor who were given the morsel of food (fruits). A minister of state also attended the occasion. It's good that Chunky did not use it for any publicity, and he himself kept up the "roza" fasting.

Aamir Khan keeps suffering from this complex of being short in height compared to other stars. So he keeps repeating to all

and sundry that others are not so tall. In that case, he should not pose with actors like Chunky, Govinda, Kunal, or even Gaurav. For that gives up the game more than any words or claims.

Sangeeta Bijlani plays a shrewd game of wooing and befriending heroes and directors, while keeping Salman Khan (son of writer Salim) on the engagement hook. She keeps saying that she will marry Salman. But nobody knows when. Perhaps it is her reserve stock. If her films flop and she has no place in the industry, she may opt for Man's home.

Sohania Kanwar died leaving three wives as claimants, including former actress Snehlata. Each was given a flat or bungalow. But still there is a fight over other things like his recording room, as in the case of *Shankar* and *Sharda*.

Star quotes

Amrita Singh: Nobody knows the real reason why Vinod Khanna and I did not get married. That's one question I am never going to settle. Only he knows and I know. **Sri Devi:** The director and writer are often foxed by a dummy situation. Then they come and tell me: "Please do some comedy". That unnerves me. I am not a clown in a circus. **Aamir Khan:** I am not so short. I found that Sri Devi is not taller than me. And she is considered one of the tallest actresses.

Amitabh Khan: Nowadays Amitabh is not the friendly chap he used to be. He wants people to go to him appeals and pleas. I hate that. Why can't he just respond as one human being to another?

They related the story of Bambi and how he was destroying the pleasures of deer shooting. To emphasize their point, the two hunters took down their pants and showed the president what Bambi had done.

The president, who had seen a lot of terrible sights during World War II, was never more horrified. He decided that the only way to protect deer hunters was to allow them to purchase the assault weapon of their choice, without any questions.

Once permission was granted, thousands of gun lovers traded in their rifles for semi-automatics. Now the battle between deer and the American sportsman is even. People who have seen Bambi in the woods say that he is no longer the cocky, vicious stag he used to be. He has been hiding in the thicket, as has Thumper the rabbit. Thanks to semi-automatic weapons, the Bambis of this world will never frighten a hunter again. 1989, Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

The Art Buchwald Column

Shooting Bambi

Thumper, a killer rabbit, that it didn't take long before many hunters were afraid to go into the woods.

One day Bambi was out looking for food with his mother when he heard shots. He became furious and turned to face the men who had fired them. As soon as they saw the look of maniacal hatred in Bambi's eyes, the hunters fell to their knees, and one of them cried, "Don't hurt us. The Constitution says we have a right to rat-a-tat."

"Guns don't kill deer," the other hunter yelled, "deer kill people."

At this point, Bambi stuck his antlers into the hunters' backsides and they ran away. The owl hooted, the frogs croaked, and the foxes ran in circles.

The screaming hunters made straight for the

headquarters of the National Gun Lovers Society where they breathlessly told their story to Charlton Heston. Gun lovers at the target range heard the tale and decided to hang Bambi in effigy — and boycott his movies.

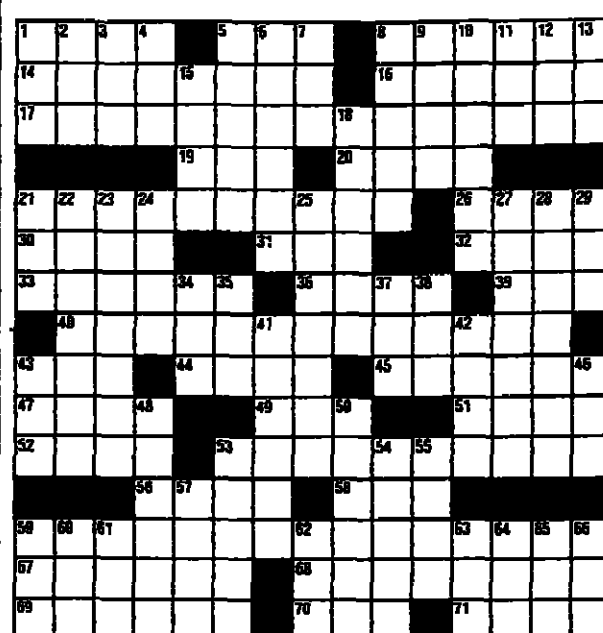
An man shouted to the armed multitudes, "The reason we can't go into the forest is because we don't have enough fire power to protect ourselves."

Someone in the crowd yelled back, "Give us the guns so that we can do the job."

Another person said, "Unless we have heavier magazines, we'll never thin out the herds."

The rally went on all afternoon. Finally, because the gun lovers had done so much to get the president elected, they went to see him to make their pitch.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Computer input
 - Naut. dir.
 - Tranquil
 - Oversight
 - Typewriter roller
 - Minut purchase
 - Hester
 - Of a time period
 - One of the sacred cities of Islam
 - Hillside shelter
 - Thought: Prefix
 - Harbor bridge
 - Ill-disposed
 - Anthropoid ape
 - Apiece
 - Loudness units: Abbr.
 - Memorable Hollywood choreographer
 - Ailing
 - Champagne container
 - Grass-covered soils
 - ex machine
 - Golf ball position
 - Turn on the water works
 - "I'm romantic"
 - Bamboozled
 - Buddhists' sacred mountain
- DOWN**
- Monk's title
 - Doctors' gp.
 - Bolivian export
 - Cigar buildup
 - Instrument for Shankar
 - A Midsummer Night's Dream' role
 - A former queen of Spain
 - Dick's vice-president
 - "Born Free" lioness
 - Texas metropolis
 - One — time starring
 - 27 Down position
 - Conclude
 - Palm product
 - Olympian quaff
 - Pear-shaped fruit
 - Food
 - One of the Twelve Tribes of Israel
 - Gangs of gangsters
 - Bye-bye, to blokes
 - "Bolero" star
 - Ossie Davis's wife
 - Tax org.
 - Kimono sash
 - Loc. of 17 Across
 - Bank drafts: Abbr.
 - Cut down
 - Wisconsin college
 - Mower's turf
 - Amin
 - Ger. political party
 - Milkers' perches
 - The Count of Monte Cristo's first name
 - Robbery
 - Dwindles
 - Irish industry asso.
 - French miss. for short
 - Spot of color
 - Airline abbr.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

YOU BE THE JUDGE

North-South vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
 ♠ J 10 6
 ♥ 8 2
 ♦ A K 7 5
 ♣ K J 6 3

WEST
 ♠ A Q 4
 ♥ J 9 6 5 4
 ♦ 9 8 3
 ♣ Q 2

EAST
 ♠ 3
 ♥ Q 10
 ♦ J 10 2
 ♣ A 10 9 8 7 4

SOUTH
 ♠ K 9 8 7 5 2
 ♥ A K 7 3
 ♦ 6 4
 ♣ 5

The bidding:
 North East South West
 1 ♦ 2 ♣ 2 ♣ Pass
 3 ♣ Pass 4 ♣ Pass
 Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♣
 Take a good look at all four hands. Study the bidding and play and then decide whether any or none of the players is culpable of wrongdoing.

Four spades seems a normal enough contract to reach. West led the queen of his partner's suit, covered by the king and won by the ace. East shifted to a trump, and West

won the queen and ace, then led a third round. Declarer had two losing hearts to contend with, and only one high card in dummy on which to take a discard. Down one.

The first charge must go to West for failing to contest the auction. When partner makes a two-level overall, he usually has a six-card suit, or an excellent five-bagger. Therefore, Q x is adequate support and, with the ace-queen of spades behind the spade bidder, West had more than enough to raise to three clubs.

The major blunder, however, is South's. His contract is secure unless the defenders can draw all dummy's trumps before he can ruff his heart loser. With West on lead, that is an impossible task for the defenders, so declarer should have played a low club from dummy at trick one!

If West continues with a club, declarer can ruff out the ace and ruff two hearts on the table, using a diamond ruff as an entry to the closed hand. Even if East can over-ruff, declarer loses only two trumps and a club. And if East overtakes the queen of clubs with the ace to shift to a trump, he sets up two club tricks on the board to take care of declarer's heart losers. Simple, once you think about it.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

HASP SLED SMOG
 OLEA EIDER PALO
 PATSYCLINE ARAN
 SISTER TENERIFE
 UTIES BETTE
 EMERITUS GRACES
 MIMES THREE ULT
 ELMS CRIED AREA
 ELA SHALL TRINE
 REBATE FISHMEAL
 OBSESE CERA
 INVERTED DOMITE
 RIAL ELIZABETHI
 INRE REVET NEAR
 SAYS DANE TATE



THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS

Aries (March 20 - April 18)
 Try to avoid overrating yourself, but do not be lethargic either. Venus' influence will help you to make some changes for the better. Your lucky numbers are 15 and 21. You should consider the alternatives most carefully before deciding. Be moderate.

Cancer (June 21 - July 21)
 You should make sure you take full responsibility for your actions. A friend will need and be grateful for your help and advice. You should have just a little more faith in yourself. Be resilient.

Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)
 Venus' better influence will help to improve your mood. You will be better able to find the solution to a practical problem. You are more prone to accidents and should take even better care than usual. Be objective.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)
 You will be better able to deal with an important matter. You should make sure you do not break a promise. Do not expect to have everything always quite your own way. Be respectful.

Taurus (April 19 - May 19)
 You will tend to tire easily and should do what is more important first. The Moon's influence will help you to make up your mind. A certain amount of force will be needed, but not too much or else you will spoil everything. Be more tolerant.

Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)
 Venus' better influence coupled with that of Mars will tend to make you more sure of yourself. You should not devote too much time to secondary matters. Avoid spending money you have not yet got. Be more patient.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)
 You will feel rather vulnerable and exposed and should avoid all needless risks. Do not become involved in something that is of no concern of yours. Others are liable to take the credit for something you have done. Be reliable.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)
 You should take a little more care about your personal appearance. Do not make things more complicated than they need be. You are more liable to make mistakes and should be on the lookout for them. Be polite.

Gemini (May 20 - June 20)
 You should not allow yourself to be beset by doubts, you have no need for them. Avoid anything that is a drain on your time if you can. You would do well to use a little more commonsense. Be sincere.

Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)
 You will have good opportunity but you may well waste it. Make sure you do not get on other people's nerves. Do your best to stay on good terms with your friends and your partner. Be reliable.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
 Venus' better influence will help you to overcome a delicate situation. You will be able to make a few changes for the better only you must not hesitate. Do not try to fight the inevitable, but do not think that everything is inevitable. Be more sensible.

Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)
 You will have more success than you thought you would but there is still a lot to be done. You should make sure that the other concerned understand what you have in mind. Avoid placing too much trust in someone you do not know very well. Be generous.

War draws Afghan women out of their homes

You've come a long way, baby

By Jeremy Clift

KABUL. (Reuters): The conflict in Afghanistan has heightened life's contradiction for Afghan women, caught between traditional Islamic conservatism and the modern demands of war.

Tens of thousands are widows, putting new strain on an Islamic society already split by competing ideologies.

The war is bringing more women into work, taking over duties in factories, as police officers and in hospitals, says Masuma Esmati Wardak, long-time campaigner for women's rights in Afghanistan and president of the All-Afghanistan Women's Council.

The Soviet-backed government in Kabul has encouraged the training of women, increasing the number of women at universities and even establishing a women's militia.

But in the refugee camps in Pakistan and Iran where five million Afghans live in exile, fundamentalist Islamic leaders have reinforced restriction on women, curtailing outside contact and requiring them to wear a traditional chador, the billowing head-to-toe cloak.

The hot and dusty camps have underlined tribal loyalties and strengthened the position of conservative religious leaders, many of whom see the role of women as wife and mother and little else, according to international aid workers.

Ten years of war has brought Afghan women new hardships and responsibilities.

Pressure
"There is a whole group of women who have lost their husbands. This puts huge pressure on an Islamic society which encourages women to marry the brother of their dead husband," said a United Nations official in the capital, Kabul.

Wardak, one of seven women members of the Afghan lower house, the House of Representatives, says her organisation tries to help the growing number of widows with accommodation and to ensure they get the full salary of their dead husband or son.



Members of the Afghan women's militia stand armed with Soviet made AK-47 automatic rifles during a government rally.

The women's council, which is linked with the ruling communist-based People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, also trains women to find jobs in small-scale industry and offices.

"We want to train women to help in the economy," Wardak said. "We run courses, and teach them carpet weaving, hairdressing, secretarial work and factory skills."

"Feminists may argue that the process of modernising Afghan women has not been fast enough," says a recent article in the pro-government magazine *Afghanistan Today*.

But the qualitative nature of the change in women's status and rights is apparent when you compare it with what it was at the turn of the century. Then a woman was a chattel, kept in seclusion at

all times, with no rights whatsoever.

In Kabul, about half the city's women do not wear the chador.

"The chador is for women from the villages and the suburbs," says Karina, a secretary in an Afghan ministry, who wears discreet make-up and Western-style clothes.

"I've never worn one and I don't think my mother has for 20 years."

Asked whether she would accept the chador if the Islamic guerrillas fighting to overthrow the government took power in Kabul, Karina said: "I suppose I would."

Wardak argues that Islam gives women specific rights, and that in Afghanistan's villages women work unveiled alongside men in the fields.

"It is only in the camps that they've gone back to the chador," she says. "I'm sure when they resettle in Afghanistan they will resume what they have done before."

Islam as practised for centuries in the villages of Afghanistan has few of the hallmarks of the modern fundamentalism advocated by the most hardline of the mujahideen led by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

His Hezb-i-Islami group received large quantities of weapons from the United States and Pakistan in the fight to secure the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan, putting them in a strong position to help decide the future of this poor, landlocked country of 17 million people.

Whoever wins, Afghanistan's women still have a long way to go.

Nearly one out of every 10 women dies in childbirth, according to the United Nations.

While 39 per cent of men are considered literate, only eight per cent of women can read or write. In the refugee camps, competing demands have left Afghan women with many conflicts, according to aid officials who worked there.

Contact with outside ideas has raised expectations and challenged more traditional concepts of the role of women. Access to medical treatment and advice has increased as has education for girls.

"This war is changing things for women," says Shaima, 25, who works in a Kabul government office.

Nature versus nurture

By Mary Kenny

THE 19th Century poetess Elizabeth Barrett Browning was a feminist social experimenter before her times. She rejected the theory that boys will be boys and girls will be girls.

Instead, she thought children should be brought up with a cross-sex culture. Therefore, when she had a son, she dressed him up in girl's frocks until he was 12, insisted he have beautiful girlish ringlets tumbling down his back, and made him wear pretty velvet slippers in the streets rather than 'rough', masculine leather. Did he like it? No, he loathed it! Did it make him more 'feminine' in adulthood? No, he turned into a rampant womaniser.

Poor Elizabeth Barrett Browning, she was up against ten million years of sexist evolution, ten million years in which male and female characteristics have been deliberately developed by evolution to keep the species in survival.

Yet Mrs Barrett Browning has had no shortage of followers, even since the serious appearance of feminism in the 1890s, egalitarian theorists have believed men and women are only different because of 'social conditioning' (rather as Marxists believe you only have to change society to change people).

"Femininity and masculinity do not exist," declared the American feminist activist, Lorry Cotin Pogrebin, as recently as 1980. "They are fictions invented to coerce us into sex-role behaviour."

Social

And, indeed, it has been that for at least two decades now, in the enlightened parts of the world, boys and girls have been educated to have the same values and aspirations, and all sexist 'stereotyping' has been frowned upon.

It is sexist stereotyping, we are told, which causes little girls to play with dolls and little boys to play with guns and trains. It is the different social attitudes towards boys and girls which makes boys aggressive and girls wish to be decorative.

Yet, disappointingly for the Equal Opportunities Commission, time and time again when girls' and boys' attitudes, play-patterns and responses are measured, they emerged resolutely, stubbornly sexist as ever.

The most recent study out this week simply confirms those that have gone before. In a survey of 600 boys and girls aged between seven and 12, the kiddos came out with the same old story.

The girls wanted to be nurses and hairdressers; the boys wanted to be motor mechanics, sportsmen and engine drivers. Ten per cent, of the girls wanted to take care of children full-time, and no girls wanted to join the Army. Only one girl wanted to become an engineer.

Some girls wanted to be policewomen, yes, and seven per cent wanted to be vets; but what is the betting that their concept of being a policewoman is taking care of people, having a sense of social concern for other people's lives, and that their notion of being a vet was babying gorgeous little puppies and kittens?

I would say the betting is pretty good, because that is the pattern which has repeatedly shown up in worldwide studies of boys' and girls' behaviour. Boys and girls are equally intelligent — yes, that is certainly established — and girls, indeed, tend to be more diligent as school-children.



Do they want to change places?

But although their IQs are broadly equal, their tastes and responses are different. Girls consistently score more highly in verbal and linguistic skills; boys consistently do better in spatial and mathematical concepts. In watching TV, for instance, girls always tend to pick up a social or human interest theme, whereas boys are more hooked by scientific data. In play, boys go in for rougher games and are more adventurous; girls like gentle physical intimacy, 'secrets' and personal relationships. Among boys, skills are respected in play; among girls, 'niceness' counts.

All this 'sexism', however, has a sound biological basis. We survived the ten million years of our evolution because females were soft and caring with the young, taught them to speak, and showed social concern; and because the males were robust enough to hunt, find new territories and defend them.

We cannot overturn these ten million years overnight, and perhaps it is deforming of the child's nature to try to do so too emphatically.

This does not mean that girls should not have opportunities in whatever direction they wish, but it does mean they should be accepted for their girlishness, not reproached for it. Most women do not want to be lathe operators! And they should not be scolded for preferring to be hairdressers.

It is not, either, simply 'society': it is what we would call nature, in that certain aspects of our behaviour really are inherent. It is, indeed, quite wrong to imagine that parents encourage 'stereotype' behaviour. Sara Stein's authoritative study of non-sexist child-rearing showed most parents try to modify that parents encourage 'stereotype' behaviour.

Dowry alone not responsible for violence

Femicide rages on in India

By Shanta Dharmalingam

EVEN to the casual observer, the alarming rate of violence against Indian women is very obvious.

Every day the country's national newspapers seem to report another case of a young wife burnt to death by her husband, sometimes with the aid of her husband's family.

Known euphemistically as "stove accidents", these shocking killings are often the end of a string of physical, emotional and psychological abuse suffered by these women.

Recent findings released by the Bureau of Police Research and Development indicates that crimes against women have been steadily increasing since 1983 though most still go unreported.

The physical assault of Gitanjali Pawar earlier this month illustrates the difficulty faced by women in reporting such violence. Pawar sustained two fractured arms after allegedly being beaten up by her husband, an officer with the Delhi police and his brother.

She was threatened and turned away from several police stations before a senior police officer would finally register the complaint against

his fellow officer.

In the past, social reformers and women activists have highlighted dowry demands as the major cause of harassment and murder of so many Indian women.

Within the last decade, dowry related deaths have become a symbol of the oppression of women in India and dowry has received more attention than almost any other social issue.

However, despite anti-dowry campaigns and legislation, the practice of dowry is flourishing and spreading. It remains one of the only ways for women to secure a portion of their family assets which otherwise go to their brothers.

Nevertheless, while dowry is seen by many as a social evil, women activists are now questioning the extent to which dowry may be held responsible for the harassment and maltreatment of women at the hands of their husbands and in-laws. In most cases, daily torture and harassment seldom ceases when demands are met.

Madhu Kishwar, founding editor of India's popular feminist journal *Manushi*, joins other women in demanding a re-examination of the issues.

The real killer, they claim, is not the greed of in-laws for more dowry but the overwhelming pressure women face to keep a marriage going at all costs.

Where practised in India, dowry is simply the transfer of money and gifts from a woman's family to a man's family at the time of marriage and frequently reflects the husband's market value.

A middle class professional settled into a secure career could expect and demand a dowry of between \$10,000 and \$25,000, a large sum for the average family. Dowry rates are increasing faster than the rate of inflation.

The stigma of having an unmarried, separated or divorced daughter is still so great in India that a woman's parents would rather meet the demands for more dowry provided the husband keeps her under his roof.

Upgrade
This is the preferred option to giving money directly to their daughter so that she may leave her husband and lead an independent life. As Kishwar points out, the fate of women in this situation is worse than a hostage. The family of a hostage victim pays ransom for their release. The parents of a married woman pay to keep her a hostage in the hope that she will eventually be accepted as a member of her husband's family. Dowry will continue to be a weapon used to degrade and victimise a woman while it remains under the control of her husband and his family.

Dowry demands are just one method used to degrade and victimise women so that they accept without question a

subservient role in the family structure.

In fact, violence against women in India has much in common with violence against women all over the world. If more women die at the hands of their husbands in India than in other countries it is not because of the dowry system, but because an Indian woman is likely to feel greater pressure to stay in a violent marriage than her counterpart in Britain, Australia or the United States.

As Kishwar points out, although domestic violence "seems to be bothering the social conscience a great deal, the tendency is to try to keep the family alive and the marriage going whatever the cost, and the cost is often too disastrous for women."

Although life for a divorced woman or single mother can be extremely difficult in any country, it rarely has associated with it the utter shame and disaster it does in India.

Economic independence will be vital in raising the status of women in India and women are now shifting their energies from the boycott of dowry to the campaign of equal inheritance rights.

While most women view dowry as their only means of securing their rightful share of parental property, it frequently ends up in the hands of their husbands or in-laws. Only when a woman is able to walk out of a marriage and take her dowry with her will she have the power to remove herself from a violent relationship.

Women want their share of parental property under their own control.



Women have been taking soldiers' blood pressure in military hospitals for some time. But Dr Sabine Low and her 110 colleagues were already qualified when they joined the Bundeswehr. Now for the first time 50 female medical officer cadets have reported for duty with the armed forces. Before starting their medical studies these young women must pass a basic military training course. Photo: DaD/dpa

Insignificant minority

MUNICH. (DaD): Fifty women have recently joined the Bundeswehr, the Federal Republic's armed services. The women in uniform do not have combat status, of course, but are medical officer cadets. After a short course of military basic training they will begin their medical studies, financed by the Bundeswehr. For this reason they have to sign on for service with the armed forces for at least 16 years.

But in the future women will only be an insignificant minority among the 495,000 men in the Federal Republic's armed forces. In this country only men have to do national service. Women demanded that they should have the right to serve in non-combatant units of the Bundeswehr. Unlike many critics they saw in this a further step along the road for equal opportunities.

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALIAN BRUCKHEIM

QUESTION: How does one choose a surgeon to perform major, life-threatening surgery? I'm not willing to settle for a local referral from my general physician. I want and can afford one of the best specialists in the country. How does one find a doctor's doctor?

ANSWER: Your question is one that must certainly cross the mind of every patient facing important surgery, although not everyone has your financial resources. Although you say you wouldn't consider the recommendation of your own personal physician, how else would you find a "doctor's doctor"?

Start with your own doctor, the one who knows you and your situation better than any other physician. Although all practicing physicians are best aware of the skills and abilities of the surgeons who practice at the same hospital they do, we're also aware of the accomplishments of those "super specialists" who perform their miracles at university or research-based facilities.

If your personal needs would best be served by such skills, I'm sure your own physician would be more than willing to provide you

ASK YOUR DOCTOR FOR SURGERY REFERENCE

with a list of such facilities and physicians. Your next resource would be a local or state medical association, for they too, keep referral lists of specialists and practitioners for all needs. If you have a particular location in mind, try the nearest medical school for advice and expertise.

You might also consult with the American College of Surgeons, 55 E. Erie Street, Chicago, Ill., (312) 664-4050. They may help by telling you if there is a society of surgeons in the sub-specialty your surgery requires and how to contact them. I wouldn't be surprised however, if after all this effort, you find that the person you have been seeking is already at work in your own backyard.

QUESTION: I'm forever dieting, but I see only small losses and big gains. I weigh myself every morning, but the scale never reflects the effort I put in the day before, even going up after a day when I practically fasted.

ANSWER: The weight never seems to drop as fast as we would like. Even a reminder that the weight, which represents years of overeat-

ing, can't be lost overnight doesn't help much. No matter what the fad diets offer, the simple fact is that the body must burn between 3,000 and 3,500 calories more than it receives through eating, for you to lose a pound. Your daily caloric need, the amount you burn by daily activities will vary as it reflects your weight, age and the amount of physical activity you perform.

Weighing every morning has a negative side even though it helps you track your progress. You may be discouraged when you see a weight gain, when the previous day was one of great self-control. It could be a reflection of the amount of salt you ingested, for the salt provokes water retention and additional weight.

Many home electronic scales can only show weight in pounds and can't reflect a loss less than a whole pound, even though you may have made important progress. You will realize your goals if you are persistent and patient.

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ANDY CAPP

By Smith



ARAB TIMES Classifieds

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BEHIND Meridian Hotel, for Western or Filipino only, available fully furnished deluxe room. Rent KD100. Leave your message with auto answer phone No. 2421888.

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WANTED: European, American or Australian, to share a flat in Salmiya. Reasonable rent. Good facilities. Tele. 5732556, anytime.

KUWAIT City one room in CAC building for one bachelor to share with an Indian Catholic family. Rent KD70. Tele. Agnelo, 7719623, 5-11 am & 4-8 pm.

HAWALLI, one room in a 2-bedroom flat, for 2 bachelors, to share with an Indian Goan family. Bus routes 18, 19, 24. Tele. Mrs Benna, 2434177/87/97.

FARWANIYA, behind Holiday Inn, one room for one working lady to share with an Indian family, bus routes 21, 22, 34. Rent KD55. Tele. 4744345, 3-9 pm.

SHARQ, behind the fire station, one room for an Indian bachelor, bachelors or couple. Single bachelor preferred to share with an Indian family. Tele. Ninan (Sam), 2447639 (Res), 2467490 (Office).

KUWAIT City near Meridian, one room with water and electricity for a Filipino lady to share with a Filipino family. Rent KD30. Tele. Pia, 2405960, 11 am - 3 pm/6 - 11 pm.

FOR SALE

Miscellaneous

AMERICAN sofa set, 7 pieces with corner, grey colour, KD 125. Tele. Mr Samer, 4837650.

WOODEN sofa set, single bedroom set, TV, VCR, stereo clock, hi-fi system, gas oven, Hi-Fi drill M/C's and many more. Tele. 4897323 after 2pm.

WATERCOOLER, Toshiba type RWF-187-BE (bottle type). As new. Unwanted, prize, KD50. Tele. Mr Corbett, 3919540 (res), 3262723 (office).

OLD Kuwaiti chest, 3 metre beautiful carpet "Sedu" both items cost KD150. Tele. 2550709, 1-5 pm.

HOUSEHOLD items, bedroom sets, sofa, National TV 28", 3-door refrigerator, plus other items. All are in good condition at low prices. Tele. 3728439, 1-4 pm.

MANY interesting objects. Please contact Tele. 2637733, 9 am - 1 pm.

FOR sale two General air-conditioners 2 1/2 tonnes each (one both cooling/heating), in excellent condition. Also ten seater sofa set. Tele. Pradeep Handa 4744790, 4737717.

SUPRA first floor of villa with four bedrooms, maids room, four bathrooms, large living room, dining room, fully furnished for sale. Rent KD400 only. Tele. 5730211.

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3-COMPUTERS in one, Atari 130XE keyboard, IBM compatible colour display and two IBM disk drives, Atari printer and touch tablet, many original programmes KD200 ono, in excellent condition. Tele. 5723211.

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GLASTON Carlson, 23 ft, 280 HP, green metallic TE, top power seat, price KD5,000. Wet bike, red, surfjet, white. Tele. Mr Thomas, 2560122.

Cars

CADILLAC Seville, 1979, 350 engine, automatic, newly overhauled, AC, sunroof, insured up to March 1990, in excellent condition. KD700. Tele. Mr Nazir Ahmed, 4348506, 1.30-3pm, 8.30-11pm.

CRYSLER LeBaron 1981, 88,000 kms, driven as a second car by a careful lady. Air-conditioning, engine, general condition very good. KD650. Tele. Mehdiatza 5317381 after 2pm.

HONDA Prelude 1984, dark blue, AC, sunroof, one door, manual, magwheel, 46,000 kms insured up to March 1990, one owner. KD1000 cash or instalments. Tele. 2407677.

TOYOTA Corona, 1987, white, AC, 55,000 kms, insured up to September 1990, KD400 for owner, balance KD2,064 for company by instalments. KD74 monthly. Tele. 5723573, mornings, 2403341 afternoons.

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TOYOTA Super Saloon 1982, first registered in 1983, white, fully automatic with manual gear, well maintained in very good condition. KD1150 cash. Tele. Sami 2420597/5737070.

MITSUBISHI Starion 1984, silver colour, carefully maintained by a lady owner, now leaving Kuwait. KD750, ono. Tele. 5635483, 1-4 pm.

MITSUBISHI Colt 1986, blue, automatic, AC, 4 doors, insured up to Dec '89, 40,000 kms KD950 cash or instalments. Tele. 5653952.

NISSAN Liberty 1984, four doors, AC, automatic, sunroof, 60,000 kms, one owner, in very good condition. KD800 cash or instalment. Tele. 5653952.

MAZDA 929 GLX 1988, 4-door, CAC, fully automatic, sunroof, maroon, 12,000 kms, one owner insured up to Oct 1991, KD3,300. KD300-down payment, KD100-per month for 3 years.

MERCEDES 230 E 1982, AC, stereo, automatic, dark green, 75,000 kms, insured up to March 1990, well maintained, in excellent condition. KD1,950 cash. Tele. 5636047.

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BASEBALL
ROUNDUPBaltimore
sail past
Toronto

NEW YORK, June 28, (AP): After one pitch, the first Major League game between teams with black managers became the first game in an important series between the Baltimore Orioles and the Toronto Blue Jays.

Many pitches later, it was a rout with Baltimore winning 16-6.

Toronto pitchers issued a season-high 15 walks and Blue Jays also made four errors. The three-run home runs by Randy Milligan and Mickey Tettleton were just extra punches landed by the Orioles in their victory last night.

Baltimore, managed by Frank Robinson, ended its three-game losing streak and tied its season-high for runs despite being out hit 13-11.

The Blue Jays, managed by Cito Gaston, lost their third consecutive game.

Baltimore increased its lead in the American League East to 6 1/2 games over New York and seven over Toronto.

Angels 2, Indians 1
Jack Howell hit a leadoff home run in the 10th inning and the California Angels beat the Cleveland Indians for their fourth straight victory.

Howell hit his ninth home run of the season. He connected off Neil Allen, 0-1, who was facing his first batter since being promoted from Class AAA Colorado Springs on Monday.

Tigers 6, Yankees 5
Alan Trammell hit a two-run double in the ninth inning that rallied the Detroit Tigers over the New York Yankees.

Tracy Jones led off the ninth with a single for his fourth hit of the game and took third on Lou Whitaker's single against Lee Guetterman, 1-1. Trammell followed with a double to left field, and Whitaker barely beat shortstop Alvaro Espinoza's relay to the plate.

Twins 11, Athletics 5
Kirby Puckett drove in three runs with three singles and Oakland's defence fell apart during an eight-run sixth inning that sent the Minnesota Twins over the Athletics.

The Twins beat American League West-leading Oakland for the second straight and won for the 13th time in 18 games.

Rangers 5, White Sox 1
Kevin Brown pitched six-hit ball for 8 1/3 innings and the Texas Rangers beat the Chicago White Sox, 5-1, in a game that was his first career shutout in the ninth inning. Jeff Russell got the last two outs for his 18th save.

Rookie Greg Hibbard, 0-2, was the loser.

Brewers 5, Red Sox 4
Gary Sheffield drove 3-for-3 and Greg Brock took 2 RBIs as the Milwaukee Brewers beat the Boston Red Sox 5-4 last night.

Clemens, 8-6, allowed four earned runs in 6 1/3 innings.

Mariners 8, Royals 0
Brian Holman pitched a seven-hitter and Jeffrey Leonard homered and drove in four runs as the Seattle Mariners beat the Kansas City Royals for their third straight victory.

Results
American League
Baltimore 16, Toronto 6
Cleveland 2, Yankees 5
Detroit 11, Oakland 5
Minnesota 2, White Sox 1
Texas 5, Boston 1
Milwaukee 5, Kansas City 4
National League
Pittsburgh 4, Cubs 3
Cincinnati 9, Atlanta 3
Houston 7, San Francisco 3
Philadelphia 4, St. Louis 2
Montreal 3, N.Y. Mets 2
San Diego 5, LA Dodgers 3

Pringle fires Essex past Warwickshire

Lancashire slip to fourth place

LONDON, June 28, (Reuters): Derek Pringle, dropped by England for the second Test against Australia, took seven for 44 as leaders Essex beat Warwickshire by five wickets in the English County Cricket Championship yesterday.

Warwickshire slumped between two stoppages for rain from an overnight 107 for four to 145 all out.

That left Essex a victory target of 149 and they reached it with three overs of the final 20 remaining.

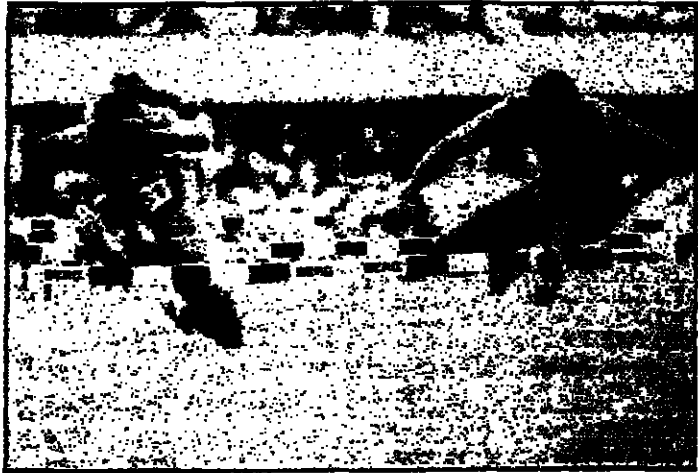
Alan Lilly struck 49 from 55 deliveries while John Stephenson made 43 as the pair put on 81 for the second wicket.

Earlier, Pringle, who was leading the side in the absence of Graham Gooch and had claimed all four wickets which fell on Monday, wasted no time in adding to his list of victims.

He removed Asif Din in his second over, Paul Smith in his third and later got rid of Neil Smith.



Aouita (113) leads the field in 1,500 metres. (Reuter wirephoto)



Kingdom (right) on his way to year's best time. (Reuter wirephoto)



Sowell (right) and Grace Jackson in 100-metres action.

Kingdom and Sowell score easy wins

Lewis posts 59th straight long jump victory

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, June 28, (Reuters): Olympic champion Roger Kingdom exacted full revenge last night for last week's defeat by Colin Jackson with a decisive victory in the 110 metres hurdles at the Lausanne Grand Prix athletics meeting.

Kingdom did not allow a brief rain shower just before the meeting began and a total of three false starts to upset him as he flew to victory in the year's fastest time of 13.13 seconds.

Seoul silver medalist Jackson of Britain, who beat the American for the first time outdoors in Birmingham, England, on Friday was second in 13.23.

Twice world champion Greg Foster, also of the United States who missed the Olympics because of a compound fracture of his left forearm, was third in 13.29.

Another American, Olympic bronze medalist Tommie Campbell, finished sixth.

Dawn Sowell, heir-apparent to retired Olympic champion and world record-holder Florence Griffith Joyner, made no contest of the women's 100 metres, winning in 10.99 seconds. Her American compatriot Sheila Echols was second in 11.18.

The men's 100 was won in a photo finish by American Dennis Mitchell, fourth in the Seoul Olympics, just ahead of Jamaican Ray Stewart. Both men clocked 10.03 with another American Leroy Burrell a stride further back in 10.17.

Romania's Olympic 1,500 metres champion Paula Ivan suffered a rare defeat in a thrilling finish to the women's 3,000.

American Paul Sue Plumer snatched victory on the line with a last desperate effort after pushing Ivan to the limit over the final lap.

Plumer, who slumped exhausted to the track immediately after the finish, clocked eight minutes 42.12 seconds while Ivan was timed in 8:42.17.

World record-holder Said Aouita raced away in the men's 1,500 metres, accelerating suddenly 200 metres from home to win in 3:35.26.

At the bell Aouita was running smoothly in third place behind Kenya's Olympic champion Peter Rono.

The Moroccan chose his moment to speed past Rono, who tried his best to respond but could not find a finishing sprint and instead faded to third behind compatriot Wilfred Kirochi.

Peter Koech atoned for Rono's comparative failure when he won the 3,000 metres steeplechase by nearly 10 seconds.

With two laps to run, Koech, the Olympic silver medalist, strode to a lead of 40 metres and won unopposed in 8:15.78 from Pole Boguslaw Maminski, who clocked 8:25.73.

Ana Fidelia Quirot produced an irresistible finishing surge to win the women's 800 metres in 1:57.95. Quirot missed the Seoul Olympics because of Cuba's boycott.

Olympic and world champion Carl Lewis won the men's long jump and his fellow-American and namesake Steve, the Seoul gold medalist, won the men's 400 in 44.47 seconds. Lewis' victory was his 59th consecutive triumph in a row.

Olympic champion Paul Ereng was another Kenyan victor, just holding off world 1,500 metres gold medalist Abdi Bile to win the 800 metres in 1:45.21.

Ereng was again content to wait near the back of the field until the final 200 when he accelerated to the front with contemptuous ease.

The Kenyan slowed markedly over the final few metres and was almost caught by the fast-finishing Bile who was only 0.01 of a second behind at the finish.

Lewis, the two-time Olympic champion in the long jump and winner of six Olympic gold medals, leaped 27 feet, 8 inches, in preserving his eight-year winning streak.

Larry Myricks, the last one to beat Lewis and the Seoul bronze medalist, finished second at 26-10-1/2. Mike Powell, the silver medalist, was third at 26-7.

"The weather was not good for us," Lewis said after his first outdoor long jump of the season. He also said he has had a back

problem since May that causes soreness in his hamstrings. "It's better now and I'll be ready to compete in Oslo on Saturday" in the 100-metre dash, Lewis said.

After the meet, Kingdom said Renaldo Nehemiah's 8-year-old world record of 12.93 could have fallen had the weather conditions been better.

"My objective is to get back in the shape I was in last year, and get the record," said Kingdom, the 1984 and 1988 Olympic champion, whose personal best is 12.97.

"This was a very special race," Kingdom said. "We're even now, but I have the fastest time this year."

Today Jackson was forced to withdraw from another clash with Kingdom because of a leg strain.

The Briton was scheduled to meet Kingdom next Monday at the Stockholm Grand Prix.

But he crashed into the eighth barrier yesterday, suffered a strain on the back of his right leg and has been forced to rest for a week.

Meanwhile an athletics meeting at which double Olympic gold medalist Carl Lewis was hoping to make a long jump world record attempt has been cancelled.

Lewis in action in the long jump. (Reuter wirephoto)

Racewalking considered drug-free

Athlete calls for independent testing

TORONTO, June 28, (Reuters): A Canadian athlete called yesterday for an independent drug testing agency to police international sport and told a government inquiry of an Italian laboratory that conducts blood doping for athletes.

Ann Peel, Canada's top woman racewalker and a staunch anti-doping advocate, testified that any international doping commission must be independent of such governing bodies as the International Olympic Committee (IOC) or the International Amateur Athletics Federation.

"It's very important that there be a third party so that you don't have the athlete's (sport) federation policing the athlete," Peel said.

Peel, a Toronto lawyer who holds the Canadian record in the three, five and 10-kilometre women's walk, also said any independent doping agency must have power to conduct short-notice tests on a completely random, out-of-competition basis if sport is to eradicate its drug problems.

Peel said racewalking, which has been an Olympic sport for men since 1908 and will be for women at the 1992 Barcelona Games, is considered generally drug-free.

She did say, however, that rumours persist that some international race-walkers use blood-doping — a banned practice which involves removing and later reinserting a quantity of the athlete's blood to increase its oxygen-carrying capacity.

"There are athletes who come on the scene and within a year or two are setting world records," Peel said, adding that she had heard an Italian national team athlete and his coach discussing "fixing the blood," in 1986.

There is reported to be a laboratory in Milan, Italy that will do the procedure, Peel testified.

The federal inquiry into drug use in sport also heard from suspended Canadian weightlifter Kevin Roy, who raised questions about the fairness of drug tests conducted at a particular laboratory in Montreal.

Roy was suspended from the Canadian national team for two years after testing positive for the banned anabolic steroid Stanozolol in September 1988 — the same drug that led to sprinter Ben Johnson's downfall at last year's Olympic Games.

Roy admitted occasional "experimental" steroid use between 1983 and 1986, but denied using Stanozolol and said he had not used the banned muscle-building drugs in the year leading up to the Seoul Games.

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The international fencing federation for six months on Monday after testing positive for noradrenaline.

The International Fencing Association also applied its six-month suspension to Laffeur who has lost financial assistance from Sport Canada for life.

OTTAWA, June 28, (Reuters): Pierre Laffeur, a member of his national fencing team, became the third Canadian athlete this month caught using anabolic steroids, Canadian fencing officials said.

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Results
At Headingley: Yorkshire v Glamorgan match abandoned. Yorkshire 308 for nine declared in 119.4 overs. Glamorgan 214 for two. Yorkshire and Glamorgan three points.
At Old Trafford: Lancashire v Kent match drawn. Kent 296 in 110.1 overs and 42 for three. Lancashire 298 in 95 overs (T. Jesty 55 not out). Lancashire six points, Kent seven.
At the Oval: Surrey beat Gloucestershire by eight wickets. Surrey 275 in 71.2 overs and 128 for two. (D. Bicknell 58 not out, G. Thorpe 54 not out). Gloucestershire 113 in 43.2 overs and 289 (G. Tedstone 50, A. Murphy three for 45).
At Southampton: Hampshire v Sussex match drawn. Hampshire 356 for eight declared in 110 overs and 171 for three declared (M. Nicholas 41 not out). Sussex 287 in 93.4 overs and 116 for five (A. Wells 33 not out).
At Ilford: Essex beat Warwickshire by five wickets. War-

wickshire 338 in 98.4 overs and 145 (D. Reeve 42). Essex 335 in 79.5 overs and 149 for five (A. Lilly 49, J. Stephenson 43).
At Luton: Somerset beat Northamptonshire by 12 runs. Somerset 274 in 85.2 overs and 346 for seven declared (R. Harden 115 not out, C. Tavaré 89, J. Hardy 65). Northamptonshire 300 for five declared in 88.3 overs and 308 (R. Bailey 100, D. Capel 58, W. Larkins 50).
Standings
English County Championship cricket table after matches played yesterday (tablets under played, won, lost, drawn, batting points, bowling points, total):
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Northants 10 4 2 4 21 37 122
Middlesex 9 4 1 4 19 34 117
Lancashire 10 3 1 6 28 30 106
Hampshire 10 3 2 5 27 29 104
Worcester 9 3 2 4 13 33 94
Surrey 11 2 3 6 25 36 93
Glamorgan 10 2 3 5 20 30 82
Somerset 10 2 2 6 24 24 80
Leicestershire 9 2 4 3 18 29 79
Gloucestershire 9 2 5 2 14 31 77
Sussex 9 1 1 7 25 31 72
Kent 10 1 3 6 25 26 67
Yorkshire 11 1 2 8 22 29 67
Warwickshire 9 0 4 5 17 36 61
Nottinghamshire 10 1 3 6 20 24 60
Derbyshire 8 1 3 4 10 26 52

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Veterans may continue to get special privileges

WIMBLEDON, England, June 28, (AP): Veteran men's tennis players could continue to receive an exemption from rules requiring they play a minimum number of tournaments each year after control of the tour changes next year, officials said yesterday.

The Association of Tennis Professionals, which takes control of men's tennis in

1990, said players such as Jimmy Connors may receive special privileges because of the long service they have given to the game.

ATP head Hamilton Jordan, speaking at Wimbledon as the grass court tournament began its second day, vowed to strictly enforce rules that players perform in a fixed number of tournaments, or be

required to qualify for any tournaments they enter. The number of tournaments needed to skip the qualifying rounds has not yet been determined by the ATP.

"I can assure you we will enforce our rules more strictly than under the Men's Tennis Council," Jordan said.

Most top men have been allowed to play fewer than the required 14 tournaments

under MTC rules.

He said a decision on exemptions for veterans will be made this year.

Jordan also said at a news conference that the ATP is considering starting a senior tour in 1990 or 1991. There currently are several tournaments in the United States for players 35 and older, but nothing on a world wide basis.

Sanchez edges Pospisilova

McEnroe survives tough first round

LONDON, June 28, (Reuters): Arantxa Sanchez, who departed the French Open on June 10 covered in the red clay of a victory roll, celebrated a less notable but still highly satisfying success at Wimbledon today.

The seventh-seeded Spaniard, 17, who defeated world number one Steffi Graf in the French final, beat Czechoslovak Jana Pospisilova 6-2 7-5 to reach the second round at Wimbledon for the first time in three attempts.

The match, a clay-court duel played on grass, provided only brief moments of real entertainment for the long-suffering spectators whose travel to the tournament had been complicated by a public transport strike and who were then frustrated by a rain-delayed start.

World number one Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia moved into the third round with a 6-7 (5-7) 6-3 6-2 6-2 victory over Ronnie Bamsum of Sweden.

Mary Joe Fernandez, the 12th seed who lost to Sanchez in the French Open semifinals, also won her first-round match comfortably, beating fellow-American Mary Lou Daniels 6-4 7-5.

Sanchez's victory kept her on course for a quarterfinal return against Graf but the manner of it suggested she has little chance of beating the West German a second time should she get as far as the net in the first set.

Hana Mandlikova, the



McEnroe catches his racket after bouncing it off the grass courts. (Reuters wirephoto)

dlikova has twice been a bridesmaid in 1981 and 1986.

John McEnroe battled back from two sets down to snatch a hard-won 4-6 4-6 6-2 6-3 8-6 victory and save his dreams of a fourth Wimbledon title from being wiped out by Australian Darren Cahill in the first round last night.

Fifth-seeded McEnroe has only once lost in the first round at the Wimbledon Championships — 11 years ago — but he looked surprisingly vulnerable in his rain-interrupted appearance on the centre court.

Fifteen double faults did nothing to help the American's case that at the age of 30 he is still sharp enough to win the coveted trophy and a warning for racket abuse dented his claims to have tamed his temper.

McEnroe, who has not had to play five sets at Wimbledon since the 1982 final when he lost to Jimmy Connors, dropped the opening game of the second set on a break, again after starting with a double fault.

Today's results, (prefix number denotes seeding):

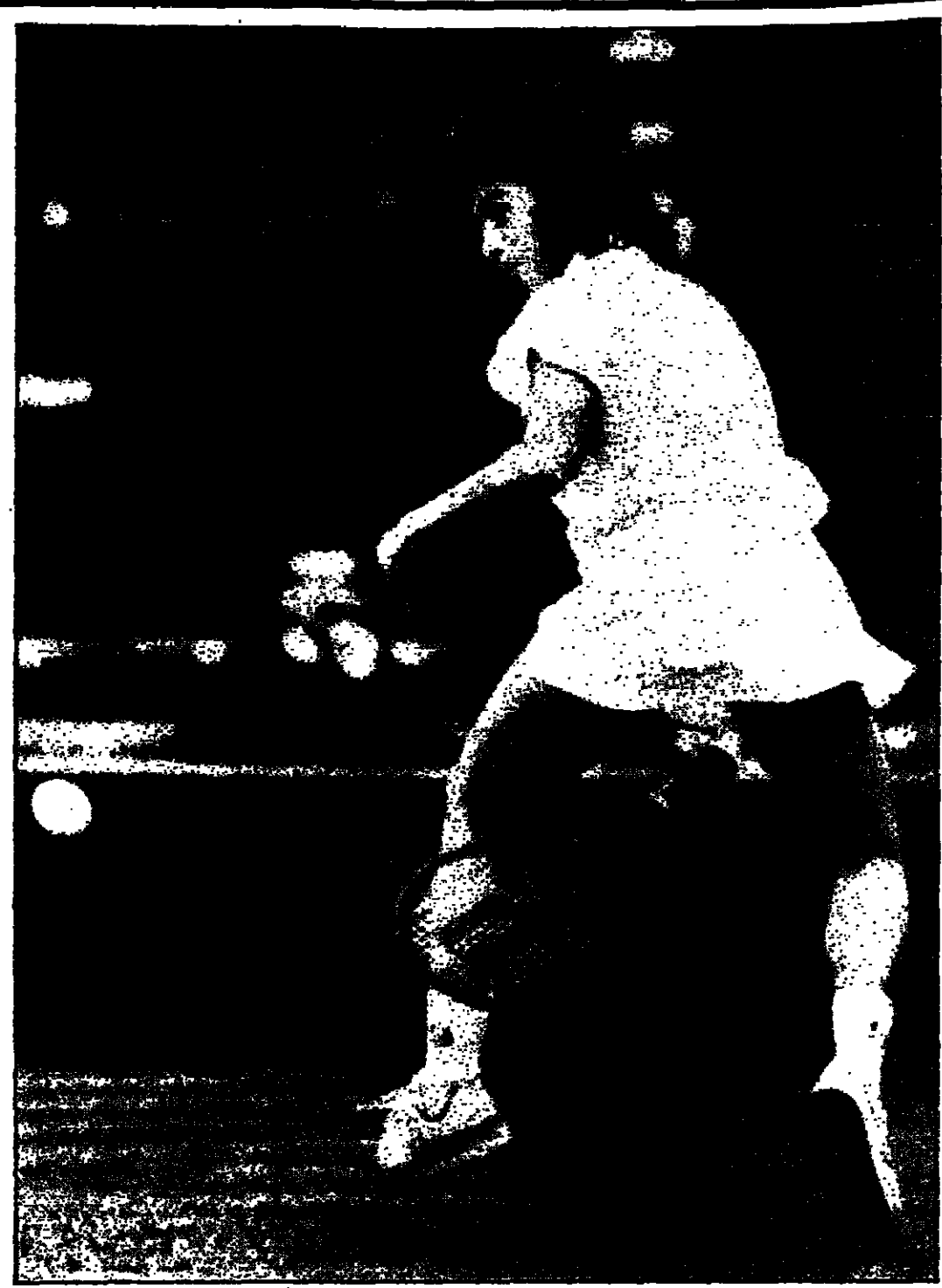
Time Sanchez-Larsen (Dumark) beat Masako Yanagi (Japan) 6-1 6-1; Elizabeth Smylie (Australia) beat Jenny Byrne (Australia) 6-4 6-0; Katrina Adams (US) beat Amanda Coetzer (South Africa) 7-5 6-3; Arantxa Sanchez (Spain) beat Jana Pospisilova (Czechoslovakia) 6-2 7-5; Catherine Tanvier (France) beat Akemi Nishiyama (Japan) 6-2 6-3; Gracien Magner (US) beat Marnie Bolger (New Zealand) 6-4 6-3; Donna Faber (US) beat Larisa Savchenko (Soviet Union) 6-1 2-6 6-2; 12-Mary Joe Fernandez (US) beat Mary Lou Daniels (US) 6-4 7-5.

Amy Frazier (US) beat Anne Simpson (Britain) 6-2 6-4; Ros Fairbank (South Africa) beat Julie Richardson (New Zealand) 6-4 6-3; Iva Budarova (Czechoslovakia) beat Kumiko Okamoto (Japan) 6-4 3-6 6-4; Nicole Pietrangeli (Australia) beat Camille Benjamin (US) 7-6 (7-2) 7-6 (8-6); Kristine Radford (Australia) beat Adriana Temesvari (Hungary) 6-3 7-6 (7-4); Elise Burgin (US) beat Elly Hakami

(US) 6-4 3-6 6-2; Shaun Stafford (US) beat 13-Helen Kelesi (Canada) 7-6 (8-6) 7-3; 8-Pam Shriver (US) beat Carin Bakum (Netherlands) 6-2 6-1.

Yesterday's late matches, (Prefix number denotes seeding):

12-Kevin Carrigan (US) beat Andrew Castle (Britain) 6-2 4-6 7-6 (7-4) 6-3; Carrie Cunningham (US) beat Debbie Graham (US) 6-4 6-4 Kimberly Kessels (US) beat Nathalie Herrmann (France) 1-6 6-6 6-3; Maria Strandlund (Sweden) beat Betty Nagelsen (US) 6-4 3-6 6-3; Chris Bailey (Britain) beat Josef Cibak (Czechoslovakia) 7-5 6-7 (7-9) 3-6 6-3 6-4; Scott Davis (US) beat Andres Vynard (Soviet Union) 6-4 1-6 6-4 6-4; Ann Davies (Belgium) beat Gigi Fernandez (US) 6-7 (6-8) 6-4 6-4; Louise Field (Australia) beat Linda Ferrando (Italy) 6-4 3-6 8-6; 10-Jana Novotna (Czechoslovakia) beat Rene Simpson (Canada) 6-2 6-1; Henrik Holm (Sweden) beat Neil Broad (South Africa) 6-1 6-1; Jonas Svensson (Sweden) beat David Wheaton (US) 7-6 (7-3) 7-6 (7-4) 7-4 (7-5); Carl-Uwe Steeb (West Germany) beat Danie Visser (South Africa) 7-6 (7-3) 6-7 (4-7) 6-3 7-6 (10-8); 5-John McEnroe (US) beat Darren Cahill (Australia) 4-6 4-6 6-2 6-3 8-6; Robert Seguso (US) beat Jim Courier (US) 6-2 3-6 6-4 5-7 9-7; Richey Reneberg (US) beat Christian Smeets (West Germany) 6-4 6-4 4-6 4-6 6-2; 2-Tim Mayotte (US) beat Paolo Cani (Italy) 7-6 (7-2) 6-0 6-1; Tim Wilkison (US) beat Patrick Barr (West Germany) 6-2 6-2 3-6 3-6 6-1; Laura Golarsini (Italy) beat Susanna Smith (Britain) 6-4 6-2; David Rade (US) beat Paul Anacone (US) 3-6 7-6 (7-2) 4-6 7-5 6-4; Greg Holmes (US) beat Nick Brown (Britain) 6-3 7-6 (7-3) 6-3; Laura Golarsini (Italy) beat Susanna Smith (Britain) 6-4 6-2; 1-Anne Hobbs (Britain) beat Michelle Jaggard (Australia) 6-7 (0-7) 6-4 6-4; Glenn Layendecker (US) beat Horacio de la Pena (Argentina) 6-3 7-6 (7-4) 6-2; Todd Wilkison (US) beat Johan Carlsson (Sweden) 6-3 6-4 7-6 (7-4); Sara Gower (Britain) beat Leigh Anne Eldridge (US) 6-3 6-2; Radek (US) beat Radek (US) 6-3 6-2; Gabriela Sabatini (Argentina) beat Dianne Balesstrat (Australia) 6-1 6-0; Michael Schapers (Netherlands) beat Michael Robertson (South Africa) 7-5 6-4 7-6 (7-2) 6-4; 4-Chris Evert (US) beat Pammi Louie Harper (US) 6-1 6-1; Julie Halard (France) beat Regina Rajchmanova (Czechoslovakia) 7-5 7-5; 16-Susan Sloane (US) beat Sandy Collins (US) 6-4 6-4; Carl Limberger (Australia) beat Piet Norval (South Africa) 7-6 (8-6) 6-4 3-6 6-3; Judith Laszlo (Australia) beat Ann Grossman (US) 7-6 (7-4) 6-4.



Argentina's Gabriela Sabatini returns a volley through her legs during her first round match against Dianne Balesstrat of Australia at the Wimbledon Championships on Tuesday. Sabatini beat Balesstrat 6-1 6-0. (Reuters wirephoto)

Former boxing star denies killing wife

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, June 28, (UPI): Former world middleweight boxing champion Carlos Monzon, nervous and defensive, took the witness stand on his own behalf yesterday to deny he murdered his late wife.

"I never choked her, I never threw her (off the balcony); I never hit her," the 37-year-old former champion said under questioning by 52-year-old judge Alicia Ramos Fondeville, one of the three members of the judicial panel.

Under Argentine legal procedure the judges in murder trials also constitute the jury. The judges routinely interrogate witnesses.

Monzon has been held without bail since Feb 14 on charges of murdering his 32-year-old wife, Alicia Muniz, in the seaside city of Mar del Plata, where the trial is being conducted.

The boxer has claimed that he fell accidentally with his wife off a second floor balcony after a quarrel. Both persons suffered multiple fractures, but the prosecution is attempting to show that Mrs Muniz died from strangulation before she fell out of the building.

The prosecution is asking a 18-year jail term for Monzon, who in the courtroom wore a blue suit, white shirt, and blue tie.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Ida Memorial Football Tournament

THE draw for the Ida Memorial Football Tournament will be held tomorrow at the Miami Restaurant at 9.30 am. All the participating teams must confirm their entries before tomorrow. Contact Celestino Vaz, Tel 2441860. Two members of each team can attend the draw.

Arrows meet Unity in semifinals

ARROWS meet Unity in the semifinals of the Punjab Shield hockey tournament at the Ahmadi hockey grounds tomorrow. The match, which was postponed from June 16, will start at 5.00 pm.

Saudis return to hero's welcome

RIYADH, June 28, (Reuters): Saudi Arabia, winners of the World Under-16 Soccer Championship, returned home to a hero's welcome yesterday. They were whisked away on arrival to a packed soccer stadium where they joined in traditional dancing with sticks to the beat of drums and clapping.

Matuszak took illegal drugs

LOS ANGELES, June 28, (AP): The parents of former Oakland Raiders defensive lineman John Matuszak have acknowledged that their son battled his chronic back pain with prescribed and illegal drugs before dying on an accidental overdose. A private memorial service was held today for Matuszak, who died June 17 in a Burbank hospital and was buried last week in Oak Creek, Wisconsin.

ACI upholds GP drivers appeals

ROME, June 28, (UPI): An appeals tribunal of the Italian Automobile Club (ACI) yesterday upheld appeals against the disqualification of Williams driver Thierry Boutsen and Scuderia Italia driver Alex Caffi in the April 23 Grand Prix of San Marino. The decision of the six-man tribunal reinstated Boutsen as fourth place in the race and Caffi as seventh place and forced a revision in the classification of World Championship Drivers and Constructors.

Richards delays Glamorgan debut

CARDIFF, Wales, June 28, (AP): Viv Richards, the West Indies cricket captain, will join Glamorgan next week, the county announced yesterday. Richards has taken longer than expected to recover from a treatment for haemorrhoids and will be unable to play against the touring Australians at Neath on Saturday. Glamorgan's senior coach Alan Jones said: "The players are very much looking forward to Viv's arrival on Monday. He is a world class player and his experience is bound to rub off on our younger players."

Transit strike won't ace Wimbledon

WIMBLEDON, England, June 28, (AP): With a train, subway and bus strike set to hit London today, Wimbledon officials were making plans to get fans to the day's matches. Extra parking lots were to be opened and a shuttle bus run from Victoria station in the centre of London to help the estimated 30,000 fans expected to attend the third day of the tournament.

Price war over Wimbledon tradition

WIMBLEDON, England, June 28, (AP): A price war hit the strawberries-and-cream sellers at Wimbledon yesterday. Stung by headlines in national tabloids bemoaning the arrival of the "40-pence berry", tournament caterers cut the price of a bowl from one pound 65 pence to one pound 50 pence, the same as last year. For that, a hungry tennis fan gets a traditional Wimbledon treat: between four and eight berries, depending on their size, covered in fresh cream.

Emmian returns to athletics

HELSINKI, June 28, (Reuters): European champion Robert Emmian competes abroad tomorrow for the first time since recovering from an injury which probably saved his life. The Soviet long jumper would almost certainly have died alongside his father in the Armenian earthquake had he not been admitted to a Moscow hospital three days earlier for treatment to the thigh injury which had kept him out of athletics for 18 months.

Klinsmann presented to Italian press

MILAN, Italy, June 28, (UPI): Jürgen Klinsmann, centreforward of the West German national soccer team who signed a three-year contract with Milan's Internazionale club in December, was formally presented to the Italian press today by Inter officials.

Henley attracts record entries

HENLEY-ON-THAMES, England, June 28, (AP): The Henley Royal Regatta started on the River Thames with a second number of entries, and more from overseas than ever before. Officials said 479 entries, including 112 foreign squads, were taking part in the 150th anniversary of the regatta. The historic event retains its Edwardian flavour with boaters and blazers, long dresses and straw hats, brass bands and weeping-willow-spotted lawns stretching to the river banks.

Tennis council to be dissolved

LONDON, June 28, (Reuters): The Men's Tennis Council (MTC), which has represented professionals for 15 years but is being made redundant by the new players' tour, will dissolve at the end of this year, its administrator Marshall Happer announced in a statement today. The statement amounts to an admission of defeat by the MTC in the face of the 1990 Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) Tour which has the support of most top players.

PGA made good start, says Faldo

LONDON, June 28, (AP): US Masters champion Nick Faldo of Britain said today that the Professional Golfers Association has made a start toward opening its tour to the best players from other countries.

PGA Tour commissioner Deane Beman announced yesterday that the policy board had reduced the number of tournaments that foreign members of the Tour are required to play from 15 to 12 — with certain restrictions.

"It's a start and we'll meet again with Beman at the PGA championship. We've nothing against the plan but the ultimate goal is still freedom for major winners," Faldo told the London newspaper The Independent.

Beman said that under the new proposals, a foreign player could compete in nine US tournaments of his choice, and three others selected from a pool of tournaments to be designated by the Tour.

Full details, including the number and names of the Tour designates, have not been worked out, Beman said the final details will be settled before the next board meeting in October.

The new scheme will operate in 1990.

Non-US players have complained for several years that the US Tour requirements put excessive demands on them when they also had commitments to the European Tour.

The new deal was worked out after Beman met two weeks ago at the US Open in Rochester, New York, with Faldo, Seve Ballesteros of Spain, Sandy Lyle of Scotland, Bernhard Langer of West Germany and Isao Aoki of Japan.

Ballesteros, who has long been among the most vocal critics of the 15-tournament rule, stormed out of the tense meeting. Lyle and Langer said afterward they would surrender their US Tour cards if the requirements were not eased.

Even some US golfers have said that players of the stature of Ballesteros, winner of two Masters and three British Opens, should be able to play as much or as little as they want.

Evert, at 34, talks about her future

LONDON, June 28, (Reuters): When Chris Evert first appeared at Wimbledon, Richard Nixon was the respected president of the United States, no one had heard of John McEnroe and people still used telephones with cords.

That was in 1972, and this year Evert is back at Wimbledon for the 18th time. She has always been seeded and won the title in 1974, 1976 and 1981.

People are wondering when it is all going to end, Evert says she doesn't want to talk about it, but has been all the same.

After winning her first-round match at the 1989 Wimbledon Championships yesterday, Evert was asked at a news conference: "Is it in the back of your mind at all that this could be your last time here?"

"No, the only time is when it is brought up by you guys," she replied.

But the one-line put-down is not Evert's style, so she elaborated.

"I don't mean that in a bad way, but I really would rather not have that pressure on me. Every

year when I come here I can isolate each year, and it's a new year," she said.

"After the tournament is over, I might reflect a little but right now physically I feel great. It is going to be very difficult to decide when the right time is to stop."

"I know that I am the only one who has to make the decision. I can hear people say, 'why is Chris still playing?' She should retire. She's going downhill." Then you hear people saying, "Why should she stop? She is still one of the top

players."

"So you hear so many different sides and so many different points of view. When I was 15 I was impressionable and listened to every single piece of gossip that I heard. But now I am 34 years old. I am mature and I am going to figure it out sooner or later when the time is right for me."

"Only I can decide when it is not in my heart to play."

In other words, Evert has not made up her mind yet and says she enjoys playing.

Gymkhana overcome Rangers

ANJUM slammed 42 quick runs and then took two wickets to lead Lahore Gymkhana to a 24-run victory over Rangers Cricket Club in a Summer League match earlier this week.

Gymkhana, opting to make first use of the wicket, made a bad start, losing Ahmed early on in the innings. And on the next ball Akhter found his stumps uprooted.

Anjum and Shafique, however, stemmed the rot and took Gymkhana to a comfortable position. Shafique batted well for his 46 as Gymkhana reached 112 for the loss of four wickets in their allotted overs.

Requiring over seven runs per over for victory, Rangers started on a bad note losing Bittu Singh for four runs.

Khalid and Saeed tried to accelerate the score but Anjum and Amjad kept an accurate line and length to tie down the batsmen. Both the bowlers never allowed any of the batsmen to score freely, giving away only 55 runs in their 12 overs.

In the remaining three overs, Rangers could only score 28 runs. Anjum took two wickets while Shafique got one. Although Amjad bowled well, he failed to share the spoils.

Careca, Alemão and Renato to miss opening game

Argentina and Brazil prepare for America Cup

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, June 28, (AP): Argentina and Brazil, still waiting for the arrival of stars who play for European club teams, began training yesterday for the continent-wide America Cup soccer tournament that opens Saturday.

The national soccer teams of 10 South American countries will take part in the two-week tournament, considered a crucial test for the upcoming qualifying matches for the 1990 World Cup in Italy.

Players for Argentina, the defending world champion and already qualified for the World Cup, arrived Sunday and flew straight to the site of its opening-round games in Goiania, a central Brazilian city 852 miles (1,374 kilometres) northwest of Rio. Top Argentine players were not expected to arrive from Europe until tomorrow or Friday, coach Carlos Bilardo said.

Ecuador was expected to arrive late last night, and other delegations were due today.

The most anxiously awaited was ace Argentine midfielder Diego Maradona, the star of Italy's Napoli club and widely considered by experts to be the best player in the world.

Argentina will be without one starter for the tournament. Olariucochea has a pulled muscle, Bilardo said.

"Except for Olariucochea, all the principal players were called up. I think 14 or 16 of them will

be in the 1990 World Cup, at least," Bilardo said in an interview with local reporters.

The Argentine squad has a total of 26 players. Brazil, world champion in 1958, 1962 and 1970, also was without several top players as it began practice yesterday at its private training camp in Teresopolis, a mountain resort city 60 miles (97 kilometres) northeast of Rio.

Centreforward Careca and midfielder Alemão, of Napoli, and wing attacker Renato, of Italy's Roma club, were expected to arrive on the eve of competition and, because they would miss practice, would not start the opening game, Brazil coach Sebastiao Lazaroni said.

In August, Brazil will try to qualify for the World Cup in an eliminatory group that includes Venezuela and Chile.

Brazil is in Group A, considered the weaker of the two groups. The other teams are Paraguay, Colombia, Peru and Venezuela, which will compete in the northeastern post city of Salvador.

Group B, in Goiania, includes Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, Bolivia and Ecuador.

Two teams from each group will qualify for the round-robin final, to be played in Rio.

The tournament gets under way Saturday in Salvador with two games, Paraguay vs Peru and Brazil vs Venezuela.



Maradona: most anxiously awaited

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